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NO TARIFF WAR WITH CANADA

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HIGH-PRICED EVANGELISM

BARRIERS AGAINST BAD BOOKS

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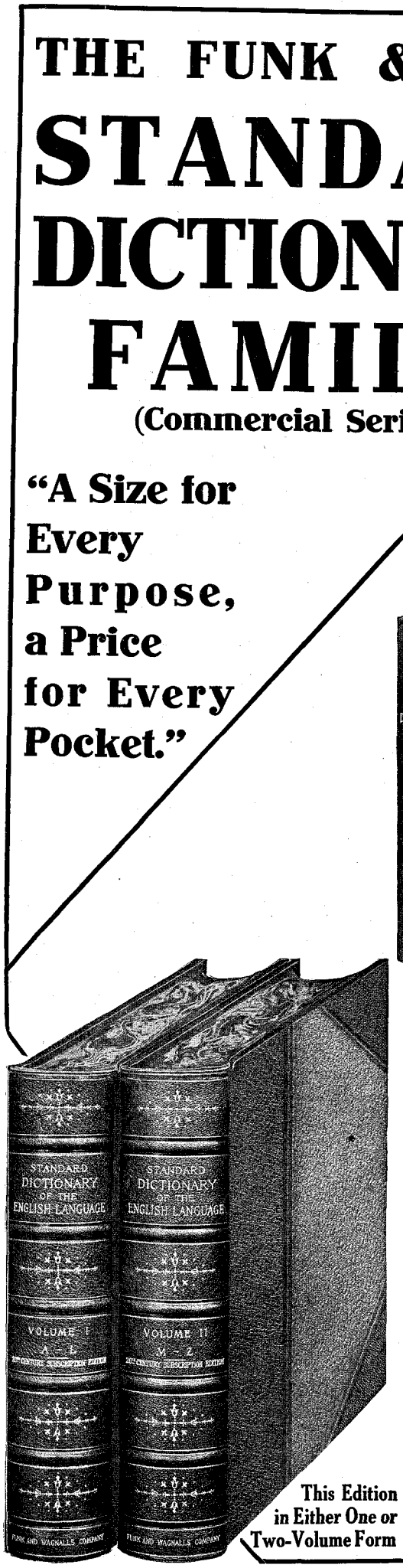

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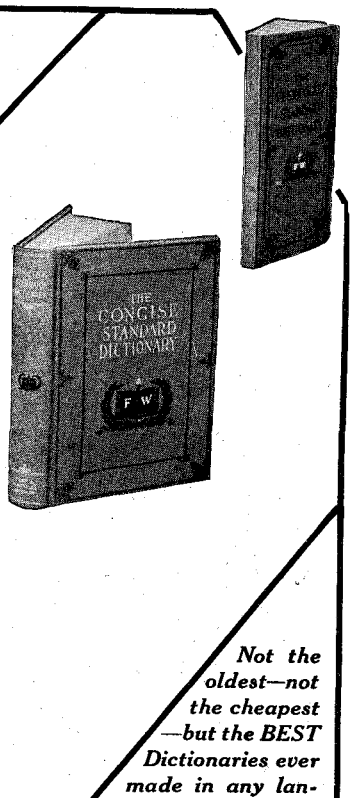

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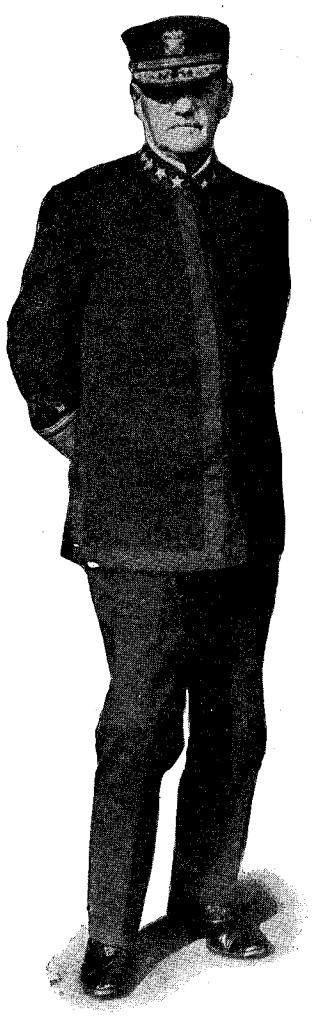

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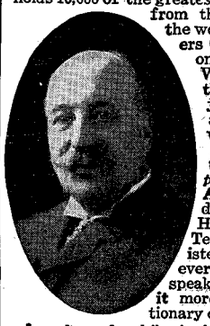

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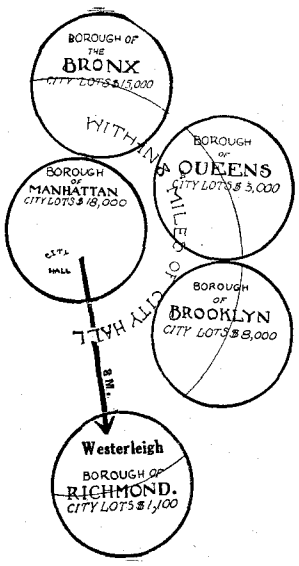

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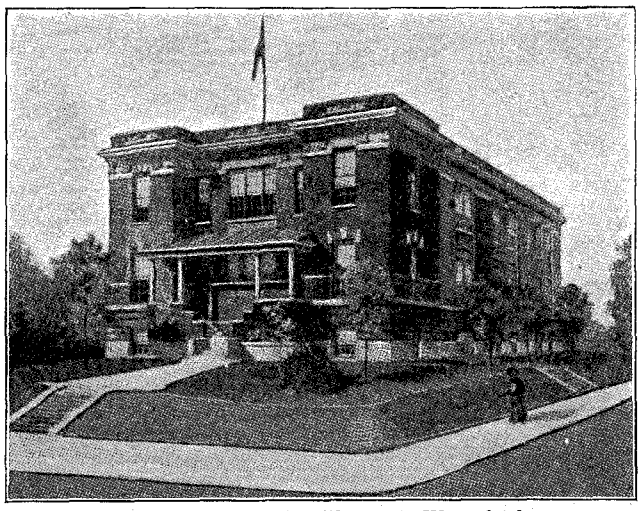

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RAPID TRANSIT—Subway to Staten Island (Borough of Richmond)—$4,000,000 for new ferries and approaches. In November, 1909, a silver spade turned the first ground that will bring the first subway to Staten Island and thus place all of the boroughs of the city in close touch with each other. Another subway is being promoted from Jersey City to Staten Island. With these subways and the largest and fastest ferry service in the world one will scarcely be able to keep pace with advances in real estate.

Remember, Westerleigh has passed the experimental stage. It is growing rapidly. New York City is adding 200,000 to its population each year. The boundaries of the thickly populated portions of the city are being extended constantly. Staten Island (Borough of Richmond) is destined to be the best residential borough of New York City, and Westerleigh is the best residential portion of this borough. Those who will be so fortunate as to get one of these 42 lots will have a snug fortune in their hands.

PROPERTY OWNERS IN WESTERLEIGH

A few of the 1,500 who own property in Westerleigh are Edwin Markham, author of "The Man with the Hoe"; I. K. Funk, LL.D., president of the Funk and Wagnalls Company; M. P. Mosely, editor of the New York *Commercial;* Florence Morse Kingsley, eminent novelist; Charles E. Hughes, governor of New York State; John De Morgan, Deputy Commissioner of Taxes; C. I. Robinson, special chemist for the Standard Oil Company, and many more prominent persons.

The NEW YORK JOURNAL says: *"Buy real estate, the right kind at the right place. Land can be bought cheaply. The piece of ground on which you build your home makes you an independent man."*

The NEW YORK SUN, in speaking of Staten Island, says: *"Building was unprecedented up to the panic. In spite of the stagnation during the last quarter of the year, more small private houses were erected than ever before. The boom in lots also reached large proportions last year."*

COUPON

National Prohib. Park Co., Westerleigh, West New Brighton New York City

Please mail me full information about your FREE LIFE INSURANCE *Special Offer of 42 Lots* to be resold in Westerleigh, and Map showing the unsold lots, also your small monthly payment terms.

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Send at once for full information about our FREE LIFE INSURANCE *SPECIAL OFFER* to Literary Digest readers. You will not be under any obligations to buy. We will tell you how, with no effort on your part and a few cents a day, you can lay a foundation for a snug fortune.

Officers of The National Prohibition Park Company

B. F. FUNK, President
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I. K. FUNK, President of Funk & Wagnalls Co., Treasurer

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Officers and residents are well known. Some of them have world-wide reputations

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THE LITERARY DIGEST

PUBLIC OPINION (New York) combined with THE LITERARY DIGEST

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TOPICS OF THE DAY

PROSPERITY'S CROP OF STRIKES

STRIKES and rumors of strikes have played a conspicuous part in the press dispatches of the past few weeks. These disturbances, as *The Wall Street Journal* points out, altho in themselves economically wasteful, are the normal accompaniment of a rising tide of industrial prosperity. They are labor's demand for a share in the increasing profits of industry. Thus in the Northwest the Switchmen's Union of North America recently asked for a wage-increase of 60 cents a day, and, failing to get it, called a strike which for a time, testifies the St. Paul *Dispatch*, "brought the freight movement of that section to a standstill and caused the temporary closing of many industries." This was followed by rumors of a general strike for higher wages among the railroad employees of the whole country, and by newspaper predictions that the coal-miners of Pennsylvania would soon enforce their demands for better remuneration in the same way. For some months a strike has been in progress among the tin-plate workers in one of the Western works of the United States Steel Corporation, and last week the leaders of organized labor, in convention in Pittsburg, formally declared war on that great corporation as a whole because of its refusal to "recognize the unions." Many other strikes are now under way, but the majority of them are of little effect or interest outside their own immediate localities. A strike of stone-workers in certain Indiana limestone quarries at the end of last month, however, seriously affected building-operations in New York and other Eastern cities, and the present strike of the girl shirtwaist-makers in New York has features of national interest.

No other labor disturbance is so far-reaching in its effects as a railroad strike which ties up transportation. Thus, during the first week of the Western switchmen's strike, altho the strikers numbered only 2,300, milling and manufacturing industries in a large part of the West were crippled by lack of material, workmen were thrown out of work, and a number of the prairie towns were threatened with a coal and food famine. These facts, together with the knowledge that the trainmen generally throughout the country are formulating their demands for higher wages, have emphasized the need of some cheaper method than the strike for settling differences between employer and employee. Thus the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* remarks that "there is something lacking in a system which throws into confusion the social and industrial machinery of the country merely because a particular group of employees and their employers have a disagreement." "Some day," says the Portland *Oregonian*, "the great American public, which lies between the upper millstone of capital and the nether millstone of labor, will make a protest against the grinding process to which it is now being subjected." It ought not to be difficult, thinks the same paper, to devise "some plan for compulsory arbitration which would provide for a continuation of service pending the settlement of a dispute." Since the public pays the bills, as well as filling the rôle of the "innocent bystander," it is deserving, urges *The Oregonian*, of some measure of protection. *The Deseret News*, of Salt Lake City, and the Washington *Post* are among the many other papers which advocate compulsory arbitration in the case of railroad strikes.

All immediate fear of a general strike on the Eastern railroads was allayed by President Lee, of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, who said in a recent telegram to President Taft:

"The demands of the train employees in train and yard service east of Chicago can not take proper form even for deliberate consideration between the railway officials and their employees before the early part of 1910.

"All this talk about a strike of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and affiliated organizations is absurd, and the membership of the organization fully realize it."

Almost simultaneously, however, Vice-President Murdock, of the same organization, said in a public statement:

"It is no secret that we have long felt we are entitled to higher wages. A demand for them was deferred two years ago, when the financial panic caused a pause."

The New York *Sun* interviewed a number of Eastern railroad presidents and other officials on the probability of strikes among their men at a near date, and it reports as follows:

"A few railroad officials were inclined to be pessimistic, but the great majority believed that there will be no strike. The following is the general view of the matter gathered recently from the companies:

"That the granting of a demand for higher wages at the present time would be impracticable for many reasons. As to the contention of Vice-President Murdock, of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, that the switchmen here should be paid as high wages as in Chicago it is pointed out that the freight rates in the West are more than double what they are on the Eastern roads. West of Chicago the rates are higher, averaging in some commodities 1 cent per ton per mile, while in the East the railroads would be glad to get half a cent per ton per mile. The rate received is sometimes even less than this. With regard to the wage question generally and the expected demands all around for increases in wages, it is pointed out that the wages of 1907 were raised after a reduction was made during the two preceding years, when there was a great slump in railroad business, the revival in business

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beginning in the latter end of 1906. Wages were not cut during the late business depression, and they remain and are now at the same point as during the boom year of 1907. One railroad, the Boston & Maine, succeeded in inducing the men to accept a reduction during the business depression. . . . Now that business is simply back to the stage of 1907 and the railroads have not had time to recuperate, the men demand higher wages than were paid in boom times. An advance in railroad rates the companies regard as a dream at present which would take some time to bring to reality. Even if agreed to it would have to receive the assent of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The expected demands, therefore, the railroads do not see their way at present to grant. So far they have not been made."

The Brooklyn *Eagle* agrees with the railroad officials that increased wages would mean higher freight rates, then higher prices, and "thus we follow the line to find that the expense of increased wages to the railroad employees will be borne by the consumers."

Turning to the declaration of war by the American Federation of Labor against the Steel Trust, we find that its primary object is to make the trust reverse its "open-shop" policy. The "declaration" reads in part as follows:

"A crisis in the affairs of labor has arisen. The gigantic trust —the United States Steel Corporation—is using its great wealth and power in an effort to rob the toilers of their right of American manhood and of the opportunity to resist its further encroachments. . . . . .

"The United States Steel Corporation has declared war on labor. In its secret councils this corporation has decreed that the only obstacle to its complete sway—organized labor—shall be crusht. The labor organizations consist of its employees, the workers (their wives and little ones), human flesh and blood. It is by their labor that they live; they have no purpose other than safeguarding their lives, their character, their future, the safety of the Republic, and humanity.

"These factors now confront each other. By their purposes, attitude, and actions must they be judged. On June 1, 1909, the United States Steel Corporation proclaimed its decree of hostility toward labor. The right of the workers to associate for their common protection was no longer to be recognized or tolerated. Accompanying that decree was a notice of a further reduction in the already scant wages of the workers. The decree went into effect on July 1, 1909."

After calling upon all labor organizations to assist in organizing the employees of the Steel Trust the document continues:

"In view of the great wrongs perpetrated by the United States Steel Corporation not only against the workers but the whole public generally, we recommend that a committee be appointed by this conference to wait upon the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and such members of either house of Congress as may be deemed advisable for the purpose of laying before them the grievances from which labor suffers at the hands of this corporation and that the committee herein provided demand a thorough investigation as to the legality of the actions and the existence under the law of the United States Steel Corporation."

The officers of the Steel Trust are reported to be little disturbed by this threat. Says a Pittsburg dispatch to the New York *Sun*:

"The 40,000 workmen of the Corporation who hold stock and draw dividends from the profits of the Corporation are looked to stand fast no matter what action may be taken by the labor-unions.

"It has been decided to issue to the stockholding workmen a statement, now being prepared, in which it will be set forth just what profits have been paid to them since their purchase of stock, what the stock is now worth in cash, etc. This it is expected will rouse the fighting blood of the stockholding workmen and will prepare them to battle against the 165,000 employees of the Corporation who have never taken advantage of the opportunity to buy the stock with their earnings.

"It is expected that at least 10,000 more workmen will take advantage of another issue of stock to be offered soon and with 50,000 of its best workmen in the mills, each a stockholder, the Corporation hopes to bid defiance to any move to close its mills."

The waistmakers' strike in New York City has also resolved itself into a fight for the "recognition of the union." Altho more than half of the original 30,000 strikers have gone back to work in response to various concessions by their employers, the remainder, at the time of writing, are still holding out. Says the New York *Evening Post*:

"The present strike has a social significance quite beyond the questions immediately at issue. It is our first great woman's strike, and as such it signalizes in a dramatic fashion woman's invasion into the field of industry."

Women of wealth and social prominence have championed the girls in this struggle, Miss Anne Morgan, the daughter of J. Pierpont Morgan, even joining the Woman's Trade-Union League to emphasize her interest in the cause. Says the New York *World*:

"Not the least notable feature of the waistmakers' strike, a labor quarrel in other respects remarkable, is the degree of moral and financial support secured by the strikers in quarters to which aggrieved labor does not ordinarily look for recognition. . . . When male employees go on strike they do not expect assistance from Fifth Avenue or Wall Street. . . . . .

"The strike in all its aspects—in the energy with which it has been conducted under feminine leadership, its general orderliness and decorum, and the support given it by women of social prominence—is destined to become noteworthy in the annals of labor disputes. Far beyond any question of wages or hours of work it will have accomplished something if it helps enlist working-women and women of wealth in a common sympathy."

SMOOTHING THE WAY FOR THE CORPORATION TAX

THE unpopularity of the President's pet measure, the corporation tax, is not confined entirely to the 400,000 corporations affected, says a high commercial authority. The Washington correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* declares that it is "universally denounced," and "distasteful to all classes," and asserts that the Congressional leaders would be glad to see it "go by the board." On the other hand a bill to repeal it, introduced by Representative Southwick, has met with no open encouragement. In explanation of this the dispatch points out that "the Administration is firmly behind the tax," since its enactment was "the only personal victory of much moment that President Taft carried away from the tariff struggle." Senator Aldrich, it will be remembered, predicted that the tax would not last over two years. "It is beyond doubt," says the New York *Times*, "that the passage of the tax was not due to its merits, but to fear that unless it were passed a broader income tax might be precipitated."

This tax, if not repealed before that time, or invalidated by the courts, will go into effect the first day of next July, and the Secretary of the Treasury has sent out a bulletin of explanations to smooth its path. Secretary MacVeagh's bulletin of rules for applying the tax admits the "imminence of suits designed to test the act," and acknowledges that in some aspects the law has proved difficult to soften. He describes the intent of the law as follows:

"1. That the law is a revenue measure and should be construed liberally for the purpose of producing revenue for the Government.

"2. That the real intent of the law is to collect a tax of 1 per cent. on the net income, less $5,000, of the individual corporation, joint-stock company, or association liable to the tax."

Defining "net income," upon which the tax is to be levied, the bulletin says:

"The term 'net income' as used in this law means not only net profits arising from the operation of the principal business of the corporation, but all items of income received from other sources, such as investments, holdings in other companies and businesses, etc. The expression 'net income' is used because there can be no question as to its embracing amounts of income received from these outside sources, whereas there might be some question as to

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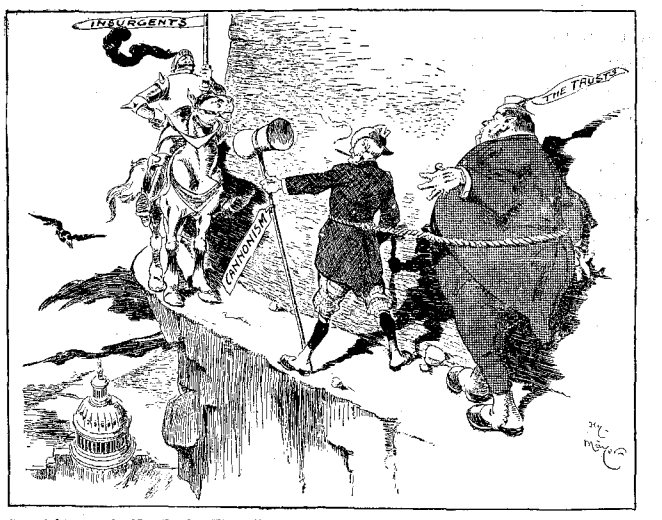
"SERVING THE PEOPLE."
—Johnson in the Philadelphia *North American.*



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WHO'S WHO IN WASHINGTON.
—Mayer in the New York *Times.*

CARTOON RAPS AT "UNCLE JOE."

whether or not such items would be included in the expressions 'net profits' or 'net earnings.' . . . . . .

"It is clear, therefore, that the purpose of the law was not to put a tax on receipts, but a tax on profits; and that the terms 'gross income' and 'net income' are used because, while they are practically identical with 'gross profits' and 'net profits,' they are yet more embracive and consequently permit a more comprehensive administration of the law."

To simplify the collection of the tax, corporations are divided into six classes, as follows: banks and other financial institutions; insurance companies; transportation companies; manufacturing companies; mercantile companies; and miscellaneous.

While many papers have faith in the measure, and believe that its influence will be salutary in bringing corporations into the open, we find a strong note of dissatisfaction in such papers as the New York *Journal of Commerce*, the New York *Times*, and the Philadelphia *Public Ledger*, while a Washington dispatch to the New York *Evening Post* informs us that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has received thousands of complaints from all over the country against three features of the law, as follows:

"Corporations of comparatively minor national importance, but of large local significance, complain that the publicity to be given their reports under the law will either encourage their largest rivals to build a competing plant near them, if business is good, or will result in cutthroat competition, or an attempt to ruin their credit, for the purpose of driving them out of business.

"Many mercantile and manufacturing establishments, and some railroads, have complained against the provision of the law requiring an inventory, or its equivalent, at the end of each calendar year.

"Many grain-elevator and some mercantile establishments have complained against the interest clause, which provides that interest on indebtedness in excess of the capitalization of the concern shall not be deducted from the gross receipts in establishing the net income upon which the tax is to be paid."

Of the Secretary of the Treasury's definition of "net income" the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* says:

"His differentiation of 'net income' from 'net profits' and 'net earnings' is not precisely the same as that already indicated by the Attorney-General, and it is at many points at variance with the common acceptation of these terms among accountants. But as the responsibility of laying and collecting this new tax rests with the Secretary of the Treasury, his definition—or his mode of computation—is the one that will have to be accepted."

And it adds:

"That the corporation tax has thus far excited so little practical interest is accounted for by the very general doubt of its validity."

Says *The Times:*

"We now have a bill which the Treasury understands differently from the Department of Justice, and which a little volume is necessary to explain to the taxpayers with indifferent success. . . . There is respectable accounting authority for the statement that the Treasury has made the law workable by the construction which it has placed upon its terms. There are other accountants who still contend that the law is unworkable as a whole, and that its partial enforcement will discriminate between those paying and those escaping payment. And there are, of course, lawyers eager to accept a brief against the validity of the tax, and clients equally eager to retain such legal advisers. A contest over the tax is certain, for there is no sanction in public opinion for the payment of a tax with such a history and deficiency of merit. A simple statute may fall into innocuous desuetude when condemned by public opinion. It is different with a tax under such conditions. It must be collected. That fact is reason enough certainly for the redrafting of the law, and even for the repeal."

Less hostile, apparently, is the attitude of the New York *Commercial*, which is regarded as a corporation organ. We read:

"A careful reading of the bulletin issued yesterday by the Treasury Department analyzing the intent of the Federal corporation-tax law, defining what the department considers 'net income' and detailing the manner in which the various interstate corporations affected shall prepare and submit their annual reports leaves an impression that the objections raised to the department's requirements under the act—chiefly by public and private accountants—are not so serious as had originally been represented. . . . . .

"It will be recalled that President Taft in a special message commended this compulsory-publicity provision of the bill when pending as its most desirable feature; so, presumably, the Administration will be 'more than pleased' at the operation of the law no matter whether or not it proves to be a good revenue-getter at the outset or whether or not its enforcement leads to harassing and expensive litigation."

As to the possible revenues from this tax *The Commercial* says:

"If it be assumed that 400,000 companies will be found to have net incomes this year in excess of $5,000 each and that this excess averages $1,000—an extremely low estimate—then the aggregate corporation income to be taxed would be $400,000,000, and at 1 per cent. this would yield a revenue of $4,000,000 to the Federal government for the first year—a very respectably sized fee for the mere 'privilege' of doing an interstate-corporation business, as the Administration interprets this tax on incomes to be levied, obviously, under a plain prohibition of the Constitution.

"But when we consider the scores upon scores or even hundreds upon hundreds of interstate corporations whose net annual incomes are up in the millions of dollars, it will be clear that the average net income above $5,000 will be enormously in excess of $1,000. Here is the Steel Corporation, for instance, whose gross earnings

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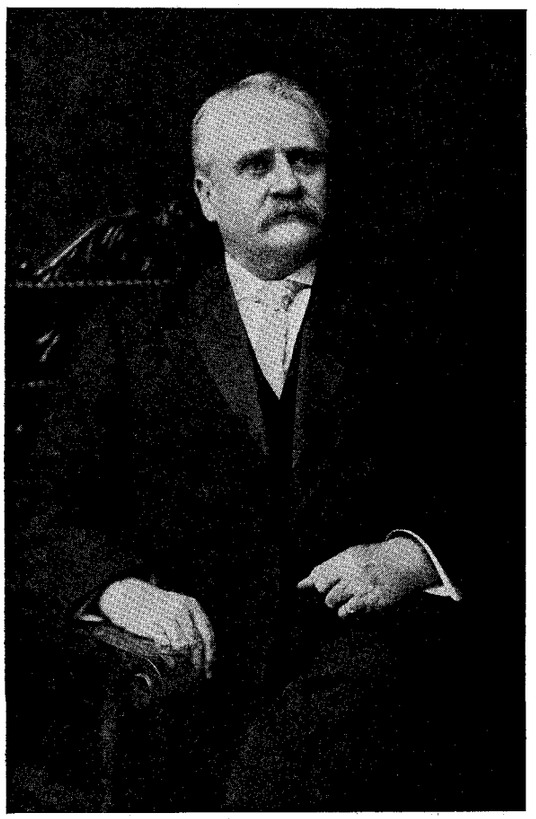
for 1908 were $482,307,840 which, after deducting all manufacturing and operating expenses, interest, taxes, debts of subsidiary companies, and all other items of output, left a balance of $45,634,679 for distribution in dividends; the Union Pacific Railroad Company had a reported net income of $35,719,306 for its fiscal year 1908; while the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's net income for 1908—lines both east and west of Pittsburg and all other systems owned, operated, controlled by or affiliated in interest with the parent corporation—was $99,855,748. Is it therefore wholly unthinkable that these 400,000 interstate corporations will show for this year 1909 an aggregate taxable net income of somewhere around $2,000,000,000 and that the Federal Government would derive from it—if the tax were to be collected—a revenue of $20,000,000?"

JUSTICE LURTON AND HIS CRITICS

CRITICISM along three lines greets the President's nomination of Circuit Judge Horace Harmon Lurton, of Tennessee, to fill the vacancy on the bench of the United States Supreme Court caused by the death of Rufus W. Peckham. In the first place it



THE NEW SUPREME-COURT JUSTICE.

Judge Lurton is described by a friend as belonging to that school of lawyers which places the emphasis upon property rights rather than upon personal rights.

was pointed out that Judge Lurton is already sixty-five years of age, which means that he will be free to retire in five years. Would it not have been better, say these objectors, if the President had chosen a younger man who, having mastered the business of the court, could have been expected to remain on the bench in active service for fifteen or twenty years? Another objection was that he comes from the Sixth Circuit, which is already represented by Justice Harlan and Justice Day, whereas the Second Circuit is not represented at all. The third ground of criticism was the suspicion that by temperament and training the Tennessee judge is ultra-conservative if not reactionary. Thus certain "insurgent" Republican Senators are said to fear, from his past decisions, that his influence will be for a reversal of the decision of the Court of Appeals in the Standard-Oil case. In a Washington dispatch to the New York *Times* we read:

"They have been examining the decisions he has rendered on the Circuit bench, and are not at all satisfied with the view taken by Judge Lurton in a wide range of cases. One which is cited as an example was his action in the so-called Keene-Harriman case. It will be recalled that James R. Keene, the New York broker, undertook to get an injunction against the late E. H. Harriman preventing Harriman from voting certain Southern Pacific stock which had been purchased by the Union Pacific Railroad.

"Judge Lurton refused the injunction, and the merger was effected. Now the Government is engaged in a suit under the Sherman Law to dissolve that very merger, and if it wins in the Circuit Court and Judge Lurton is confirmed, he will be on the Supreme bench when the appeal is decided. Decisions in other cases are held to show a similar trend of mind in Judge Lurton."

Organized labor, according to the Springfield *Republican*, is especially bitter toward Judge Lurton "because of his decision under the Employers' Liability Act." The New York *Call* (Socialist) says of him:

"Horace H. Lurton showed the reactionary disposition of his mind and his admiration for the institution of slavery while still a young man. Born and brought up in Kentucky, a border State in which the people were divided in their attitude toward the slave power, young Lurton abandoned his studies and joined the Army of the Confederacy. After the conclusion of the war he became a lawyer and at one time was a partner of Joseph W. Bailey, the Standard-Oil Senator from Texas. Later he was an associate of Judge, now President, Taft in one of the United States Circuit Courts. That the opinions of a man of these antecedents and associations are not of a strikingly progressive nature, goes without saying."

Before his nomination was announced the Philadelphia *North American*, a progressive Republican paper, said:

"From the standpoint of the progressive Republicans nothing Mr. Taft could do, not even his continued alliance with the Aldrich-Cannon combination, could prove so effectively reactionary as would the appointment of Judge Lurton to succeed the late Justice Peckham."

Nor is similar criticism lacking in the Southern Democratic press, in spite of the fact that the Judge is a Democrat. A correspondent sent to Judge Lurton's home town by the Atlanta *Journal* (Dem.) reports as follows:

"Nashville, Tenn.—I came here to see what kind of a reputation his neighbors give to Judge Horace H. Lurton, who has been picked by President Taft to succeed Justice Peckham on the United States Supreme Court.

"'The railroads and the corporations of Tennessee will be entirely satisfied with Judge Lurton's appointment,' said the first man I asked. 'He has served them here in Tennessee long and faithfully, and they will be glad to see him promoted to the larger field.'

"I asked what evidence there was of friendliness between Judge Lurton and the railroads. 'The familiar designation, "Private-Car Lurton,"' the lawyer answered. 'I suppose you've heard what everybody knows throughout this section of the South about Judge Lurton's habitual use of private cars furnished by the railroads. Up to the passage of the Hepburn Law, Judge Lurton scarcely moved without the private car.'

"True enough, everywhere I went I found tales of Lurton's private cars. Not for business merely did he use them, but he gave private-car parties. Once he took a party of young friends, men and women, through the West, including a visit to the Yellowstone. On such occasions the railroads furnished not only the cars, but the chef, the provisions, and all the little extras that go to make a junket of this sort complete."

The press as a whole, however, seem inclined to ignore this complaint of the radicals. The other objections they recognize only to brush aside. Thus to the assertion that Judge Lurton's circuit is disproportionately represented on the Supreme bench the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* replies that "this is only a narrow

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THE LATE KING LEOPOLD,
Who has been described as "the most curious character-study in history."

ELIZABETH,
Who will bring to the public life of Belgium something it has long lacked—a queen.

ALBERT, THE NEW KING,
Is said to be in every respect a striking contrast to his uncle.

ROYALTY IN TRANSITION.

consideration, since the great court belongs to no locality, but to the whole country." To those who emphasize Judge Lurton's age the New York *Sun* retorts that "the Supreme Court at Washington should not be a school for young or middle-aged judges," and adds:

"The length of time during which he will be able to serve the people is not a matter of controlling importance; it is enough that he is the best man now. There will be plenty of others available for appointment when such a judge retires; meanwhile the greatest judicial ability procurable will have been devoted to the public welfare."

Says the Philadelphia *Press* (Rep.):

"The best guaranty of Judge Lurton's fitness is the fact that President Taft, who served with him in the same Circuit, knows his work, capacity, and merit thoroughly and gives him his indorsement by selecting him for the first Supreme-Court vacancy during his term. This will satisfy most people."

KING LEOPOLD

THE most curious character study in history, perhaps, was offered by the late King Leopold of Belgium, says the New York *Sun*. "A good king and a bad husband and father; too tender-hearted to sign the death warrant of a criminal, yet the heartless exploiter of the Kongo natives; perhaps the shrewdest business man living, altho the most profligate prince in Europe; up-to-date statesman, enlightened promoter of industry and commerce, art connoisseur, benefactor of his people, domestic tyrant, spendthrift, gambler, embezzler, hero of a hundred scandals," he was "a man of contradictions." Leopold's long reign of forty-four years was at first uneventful and he was generally regarded as "an able man confined in a small sphere." Later, his harsh treatment of his daughters and the widely circulated stories of his gallantries darkened his reputation, and the world began to look upon him as a royal Don Juan. In his official capacity as King of the Belgians, however, he has been given credit for industry, administrative talent, tact, and patriotic zeal, and as the New York *Tribune* puts it: "By his able management of his country's affairs he placed that insignificant State on a plane of great domestic prosperity and world-wide importance and won the credit of being one of the most astute monarchs in history."

The New York *Herald* calls him "one of the active and forceful monarchs of his time," continuing:

"Grandson on his mother's side of King Louis Philippe of the French, he inherited an appreciation of the gayer side of life, but this never interfered with the most conscientious discharge of all duties of State, nor with the prosecution of far-reaching business enterprises.

"The greatest of American financiers who measured swords with King Leopold in China declared him to be 'the cleverest man of affairs he ever met.' Under his long reign of forty-four years Belgium made marvelous progress in population, wealth, and well-being, and even his bitterest parliamentary antagonists will mourn his loss."

In outlining the career of Leopold the Springfield *Republican* remarks that the scandals of his private life would have been ignored "if his good name had not been destroyed throughout the world by the exposure of his ruthless and shocking misrule in the Kongo Free State." Other papers agree that as the creator and ruler of this African domain he has made his mark in history. To quote from an editorial in the New York *Tribune*:

"The dominant achievement of his reign, and the thing for which, in his public aspects, he will be most remembered, was the acquisition and development of the Kongo State and its ultimate transfer from the King's personal estate to the Belgian nation, thus putting that kingdom among the important colonial powers. The world-wide controversy over his administration of that domain is still fresh in the public mind. Indeed, it is by no means yet ended. Seldom have sides been more passionately taken. Some have insisted and still insist that he played throughout the part of a pure and unselfish philanthropist, while others as earnestly portray him as an execrable tyrant. There may never be general agreement on the subject, but it must be confest that thus far the weight of evidence strongly indicates that there were gross abuses in the Kongo administration and a deplorable perversion of the purpose for which the State was originally supposed to be founded, the King's personal responsibility being a matter for interesting speculation."

Other editors are less hesitant. The Boston *Advertiser* alludes to the "shameful history" of Leopold's conduct of the Kongo and of his own life, and asserts further:

"He will stand as a fearful example for the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries. He has attained a niche in history, but it is not an enviable one. His life was useful largely as indicating what monarchs and all men should avoid."

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WHAT TO DO WITH ZELAYA

THE determination to hale Mr. Zelaya to prison and try him for murder still pervades our State Department at Washington, say the correspondents at the capital, in spite of his self-abnegation in resigning the presidency of Nicaragua just to please the United States. The New York *Tribune's* correspondent declares that Zelaya's resignation, "welcome as it is, has by no means removed him from the attention of this Government," and nobody in Washington believes his retirement "mitigates his personal peril as a defendant before the bar at which Mr. Knox arraigned him on the charge substantially of murder in the first degree." The correspondent of *The Sun* says similarly:

"It is believed here that Secretary Knox will take steps to prevent Zelaya from escaping from Nicaragua until the responsibility for the deaths of the two Americans has been definitely settled. It is not believed here that the Mexican Government will go to the extreme of attempting to protect Zelaya from any punishment which Secretary Knox may determine to impose on him.

"Secretary Knox is determined, however, to eliminate Zelaya from Central-American politics permanently. . . . . .

"Zelaya is wealthy and if he were permitted to reside at Managua he would still retain a strong influence in Nicaraguan politics. After the question as to whether or not he shall be punished personally for the deaths of the two Americans is determined, it is probable that the United States will insist on his banishment from Central America."

In his letter of resignation Zelaya speaks pretty bitterly of our part in his downfall. He declares:

"The painful circumstances in which the country is plunged call for acts of abnegation and patriotism on the part of good citizens, who are the witnesses of the oppression of the Republic by the heavy hand of fate.

"The country is staggering under shameless revolution, which threatens the nation's sovereignty, and a foreign nation unjustly intervenes in our affairs, publicly providing the rebels with arms, which has resulted only in their being defeated everywhere through the heroism of our troops.

"To avoid further bloodshed, and for the reason that the revolutionists have declared that they would put down their arms when I surrender the executive power, I hereby place in the hands of the National Assembly the abandonment of the remainder of my term of office, which is to be filled by a substitute of their choosing, with the hope that this will result in good to Nicaragua, the reestablishment of peace, and particularly the suspension of the hostility of the United States, to which I do not wish to give a pretext for intervention."

The determination of the State Department to hold Zelaya personally responsible for the execution of the two Americans captured while aiding the insurgents is exprest in Congress in a resolution introduced by Senator Rayner, of Maryland, providing that—

"The President of the United States be authorized to take all necessary steps for the apprehension of Zelaya, the alleged perpetrator of this crime, and to bring him to trial therefor; and that he be further authorized to use whatever methods and processes may be necessary to accomplish this purpose."

This plan is heartily indorsed by the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer*, which remarks:

"What happened to Maximilian will probably happen to Zelaya also, and the mere fact that he is now on his knees will not make the way easier for him. Zelaya must get out, and if he escapes with his life, it will be due to the generosity of the American Government."

The New York *Times*, however, thinks the scheme "would be only feebly characterized if we should call it ridiculous," and the New York *Evening Post* avers that the most charitable thing to say about Senator Rayner is "that much learning about Zelaya's outrages hath made him mad." The Jacksonville *Times-Union* handles the proposition as "a piece of buncombe," observing:

"The average cornfield negro knows that a man committing a crime in Nicaragua can not be punished under the laws of the United States. He also knows that he can't be punished under a law that was not in existence when the crime was committed.

"Of course an armed force could be sent to Nicaragua with instructions to capture and kill President Zelaya. Of course such instructions could be carried out, but there would be no more legal justification for it than there would be for a lynching. Such an act would put a blacker stain on the United States than any nation has yet worn."

MORE SUGAR CROOKS CAUGHT

IN somewhat cynical humor the press comment on the discovery that the Sugar Trust failed to maintain a monopoly of its ingenious and profitable devices for defrauding the Government. Investigations instituted by special prosecutor Henry L. Stimson have revealed the fact that the Trust's chief rivals, the National Sugar Refining Company and Arbuckle Brothers, have also been increasing their profits at the expense of the Customs by underweighing at the docks their importations of crude sugar. Arbuckle Brothers have made restitution to the amount of $695,573.19, which is said to represent that firm's shortage in the payment of sugar duties between 1898 and 1907. Approximately the same sum, it is said, is due to the Government from the National. James H. Post, president of the latter company, is quoted by a New York *Sun* reporter as saying:

"Mr. Stimson appears to have made out from an inspection of our books that the Government weighers and our checkers have been turning in false weights on the sugar the National has been importing for eight or ten years. . . . . .

"The executive officials of this company have no cognizance of the fraud that Mr. Stimson says has been perpetrated with enormous benefit to our concern. What subordinates may have done is another matter. I do not know anything about that."

In regard to the sum paid by the Arbuckle Company Mr. Stimson says:

"This payment has been accepted by the Secretary of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Attorney-General, in full payment of all civil claims against Messrs. Arbuckle Brothers.

"This settlement in no wise affects the criminal prosecution of any individuals who may be shown to have been responsible for the commission of frauds in respect to any of these matters, and the investigation and prosecution of any such persons will be vigorously pushed."

In the mean time the prosecution of certain Sugar-Trust employees for defrauding Uncle Sam has resulted in the conviction of a dock superintendent and four checkers. In his final argument to the jury Mr. Stimson referred as follows to the probability of prosecution for the men "higher up":

"It is not proper for me to say whether there are any other guilty parties 'higher up,' but I agree entirely with what counsel has said regarding their moral responsibility, and I consider it my duty to carry on this investigation until all the guilty parties are brought to trial. But we do not begin to build a house by putting up the ridge-pole. We begin this case at the place where the crime was committed. The men who sat beside the stanchion in which was the hole and the spring are before you. If you find that these men did not commit any crime, it will be impossible to go higher up, especially as the identity of the conspirators higher up, if any, may be locked in the breasts of the conspirators here."

As new ramifications of the sugar frauds come to light the press seem more and more convinced of the necessity for a Congressional investigation, at the proper time. Says the New York *World:*

"The Sugar Trust had no monopoly of the business of robbing the Government, and sooner or later Congress must undertake a thorough investigation of the system that made these frauds possible. The country is not going to be satisfied with anything less than the whole truth."

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OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN LIBERIA

"IT will be remembered," says the President in his message to Congress, "that the interest of the United States in the Republic of Liberia springs from the historical fact of the foundation of the Republic by the colonization of American citizens of the African race." Under an early treaty provision the United States may be called upon for advice or assistance, and last year Liberia availed herself of this right, with the result that a commission was sent on United States cruisers to Monrovia to investigate and report on Liberian conditions. One of the commissioners, Mr. George Sale, writing in the December issue of *The World To-day* (Chicago), asserts that this is Liberia's "hour of need," and quotes Mr. Root's declaration—written when he was Secretary of State—that "the duty of the United States toward the unfortunate victims of the slave trade was not completely performed by landing them on the coast of Africa," and that "our nation rests under the highest obligation to assist them so far as they need assistance toward the maintenance of free, orderly, and prosperous civilized society." That this need now exists is the substance of Commissioner Sale's unofficial report in *The World To-day*, from which we quote, in part, as follows:

"Liberia is confronting new and strange tasks, for which she is ill fitted. Conducting a government in Africa is a different matter from what it was in the old days before the partition of the continent. Abyssinia on the east and Liberia on the west are the only parts of the continent which the black man now holds. Like every other portion of the continent, these portions are coveted by the European Powers, and Liberia finds it no easy task to maintain herself. To the north lies the British protectorate of Sierra Leone, to the east and south the French territory of the Ivory Coast. England and France declare that they have no designs on Liberian territory; but each is suspicious and jealous of the other, and between them Liberia is kept in a constant state of apprehension. And not without reason, for Liberia has to-day some 150 miles less coast line than she had in 1880, and her neighbors have between them that much more. . . . . .

"But Liberia has troubles from within as well as from without; for, under new conditions, the old and ever-present problem assumes new importance and becomes more pressing—the problem of the hinterland and its inhabitants. Liberia, civilized and under effective government control, is a narrow strip of seacoast and the territory along the navigable rivers. Step outside any of these towns or settlements and you are confronted by an impenetrable wall of tropical forest—impenetrable, that is, except by the primitive footpaths made by the natives. An hour's walk along one of those footpaths, or less, and you begin to encounter native villages where the natives are living and dying, dressing, eating, and sleeping as they have for centuries, apparently untouched by the civilization at their doors.

"This back country is Liberia's fundamental problem. The maintenance of her integrity depends upon the effective control of her one and a half million of natives, especially along the frontiers. In those dense forests lie hidden the sources of wealth and the revenue she needs for the new and costly tasks of the new time. How to control and assimilate these untaught natives, how to unlock the treasures of wealth of her hinterland—these are the problems for Liberia and her helpers. . . . . .

"Liberia has done some things well, far better than she is usually given credit for. It is probable, however, that under existing conditions she has reached the limit of progress. In a recent message to the legislature, President Barclay said they were 'marking time.' This is better than a full halt, but it well represents Liberia's condition at the present time. Hers is no small task. It will require enterprise, initiative, well-directed energy, and a considerable outlay of money. There is reason to fear that, unaided, she is unequal to her task.

"And so Liberia, the Black Republic of the Dark Continent, looks across the ocean to the rich and powerful nation out of which her national fathers came, after whose Government her own is patterned, whose ideals and forms of thought singularly abide among her people, asking the aid of that nation's wisdom and experience in the solution of her problems. And the ground of her plea is all contained in the good bishop's word, 'We are here because you sent us here.'"

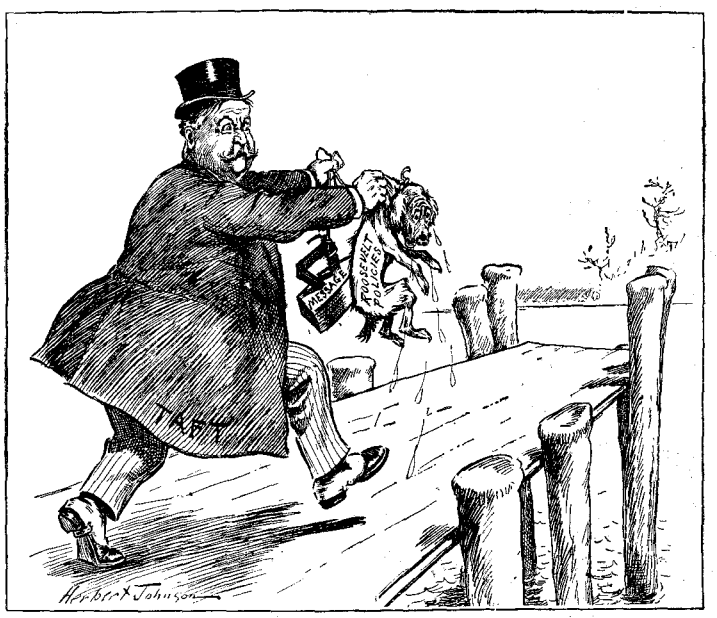
BETWEEN TWO FIRES.

Usual fate of the man who tries to stand in with both sides.

—Bee in the Baltimore *Sun*.

"NEW WINE IN OLD BOTTLES."

—Darling in the Des Moines *Register and Leader*.



"CARRYING OUT THE ROOSEVELT POLICIES."

—Johnson in the Philadelphia *North American*.

VARIOUS IMPRESSIONS OF MR. TAFT.

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SANTA CLAUS.
—Porter in the Boston *Traveler*.

THE REAL POLAR HERO.
—Ireland in the Columbus *Dispatch*.

THAT EMBARRASSING MOMENT,
When you compare Christmas gifts with your rich neighbor.
—Savage in the Chicago *Daily Socialist*.

ANOTHER GAME THAT NEEDS REFORMING.
—Plaschke in the Louisville *Post*.

SAD CASE OF BUSINESS JUDGMENT.
—Walker, of the International Syndicate.

OH, YES, THERE'S A SANTA CLAUS.
—Triggs in the New York *Press*.

CHRISTMAS SIDE-LIGHTS.

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NO TARIFF WAR WITH CANADA

THE London papers, as represented by *The Times*, were strangely alarmed by the promulgation of the Payne Tariff Law. They absolutely arrived at the opinion that a tariff war between Canada and the United States was next door to inevitable. There was to be a cutthroat duel between the two countries. Some little astonishment is naturally aroused by the want of information betrayed by such a presumable authority as the representative of the leading London daily. Fortunately the message of President Taft, followed, as it is, by the comment of the Canadian press, proves how mistaken is any anticipation of financial friction between this country and our northern neighbor. Canada has confidence in the good faith and justice of our country, as may be seen from the following quotation from the Toronto *Globe*, the leading Liberal and Government organ of Eastern Canada:

"It may safely be assumed, to begin with, that there will not be under the present Tariff Act any tariff war waged against the Dominion of Canada. The President is careful to explain that in order to bring down on this country the penalty prescribed in the form of a maximum tariff the Canadian tariff must be 'unduly discriminatory' against the United States, and when he expresses his 'hope and belief that no such result need be anticipated' he will, so far as Canadians are concerned, be taken fully and frankly at his word. This matter has been by Congress relegated to him for settlement, and his decision is not subject to review or open to appeal."

The great French paper of Montreal, the *Patrie* (Independent), remarks:

"We can easily understand that the United States, before declaring a tariff war upon us, would feel the need of considering the consequences. So far we have shown ourselves a good customer to our southern neighbor, probably more as the result of proximity than from any other motive. The commercial relations, however, which we have taken most pains to foster have been those with England, and, more recently, with France. Probably we shall soon arrive at a normal understanding with Germany. If our neighbor regards as hostile the efforts which we make to develop commercial relations with other countries, it ought to be understood that we would prefer severing relations with the United States rather than with other Powers. The swiftness of modern transport renders the proximity of the States to Canada a merely negligible circumstance."

In the same tone the Toronto *Citizen* says:

"Our neighbors are keen enough business people to think twice before they offend a good customer—too good a customer, many people in Canada believe. Canada is growing rapidly in wealth and population, and there is a general unanimity of opinion that the first quarter of this century will witness a phenomenal development which will relatively rival that of the United States itself. We are in the position of a young, vigorous, and prosperous firm, conducting a rapidly expanding business, and Uncle Sam is too good a commercial man either to jeopardize such a trade connection or to coerce such a customer. Canada is bound to go ahead, Uncle Sam or no Uncle Sam. To use a homely phrase, you can't keep a squirrel on the ground."

There is a great deal of satisfaction exprest in the London (Ont.) *Advertiser*, a Liberal and Government organ, over the reference to Canadian trade relations made in the President's message, and we read:

"The full text of President Taft's message to Congress shows that he made no specific mention of Canada in his references to the tariff question. This portion of his message may apply equally to European countries, tho the Chicago *Tribune* thinks he had Canada principally in mind. His tone is friendly and even reassuring. . . . . .

"The President has had little time to study the effects of the Franco-Canadian treaty, but his message is an assurance that even if he considers it unduly discriminating against the United States, he will make overtures to Canada before entering upon reprisals."

The utterance of a leading independent daily of Toronto, *The News*, is not quite so optimistic, and we read:

"Should the Payne Tariff precipitate a fiscal war on this continent, it will not be because Canada has not dealt reasonably by the United States, or on account of any provocation from this country. . . . The Payne Act threatens a further advance of 25 per cent. in the duties against Canadian products unless we cease trying to protect our forests, and to create a domestic pulp-and-paper industry based on our own raw materials. We wish to continue on neighborly terms with the United States, even at the cost of the present inequalities in the tariff, but we can not be forced to forego the intention of establishing an industry in which we are fitted by the abundance of our natural resources to dominate the world's markets.

"If the maximum schedules of the Payne Tariff should be applied to Canada, the Canadian surtax would apply to the United States. This would advance the tariff against American products to the extent of 33⅓ per cent."

The general tone of Canadian sentiment on the tariff question is perhaps most candidly and clearly exprest in the speech of Finance Minister Fielding who, in introducing the budget at Ottawa, spoke as follows on the matter of Canadian international duties:

"I think the terms of the message that President Taft has addrest to Congress on that subject give us abundant assurance that he and his Cabinet are desirous of continuing the close and friendly relations which prevail between the Republic and Canada. For the present we are not going to assume that there is any cause for anxiety as to any friction arising between the two countries."

A SAFEGUARD AGAINST SOCIALISM IN FRANCE

TO say that Socialism is impossible in a country that at this moment has a Socialist Premier seems like a pretty risky statement, yet that is what we read in a serious French review. Socialism will be impossible in France, says this writer, because the small farmers of the rural districts will never permit it. The Socialists have always been very loud and demonstrative in Paris. There are twenty brilliant politicians and journalists of the Jaurès type who are ever egging them on and inspiring them. It is sometimes said that the French Government is merely a journalistic and literary institution, quite apart from the real life of the people. In some respects this must be acknowledged as true, if we are to believe the words of Joseph Bois, writing in the *Correspondant* (Paris). He sets out to prove in a lucid article that the soil of France belongs to the peasantry and the peasantry will not relinquish their property rights to any mere labor or Socialistic organization. The peasant is an individualist, who believes in the personal possession of property. The peasant of La Bruyère, says Mr. Bois, is a thing of the past. The great French essayist and philosopher of the seventeenth century described the rustic Frenchman as "a strange animal, dark yet pallid in skin, half-clothed and sunburnt, bound to the soil, which he dug and turned over with invincible obstinacy."

The peasant of the present time is a very different creature, declares this writer:

"It would be difficult to recognize in La Bruyère's portrait the peasant of to-day. We may not call his lot idyllic, but at least he has some advantages over his ancestors. He is a citizen, he has a vote, he can elect his representative in the Assembly, and can overturn a ministry. At the polls his vote is as good as that of a townsman, a public official, or an artizan. This is the reason why there exists an agrarian question, and why the political world of France is face to face with a fact—the conquest of the peasantry. It is in vain that wildcat political parties try to corrupt or win the peasant population to follow the flag of their own ambitions or their triumph. The French peasant defies the elements and laughs at the

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tempest. Calm and contented he smokes his pipe, sows and tills his field, rakes and harrows his patch, reaps and stores his harvest, and is content."

The French Revolution, most popular and democratic of movements, was successful in killing all the ideas of Socialism in France, in that it established the principle of individual possession of property in land. There is no proletariat in the rural districts of France. The disturbances of labor and capital, declares Mr. Bois, are confined to the cities. To quote his words:

"To this people of the country who are infatuated with the possession of land, wild over their property, the idea of being dispossest under a Socialistic régime is absurd. The honeyed words of the Socialist agitator have no influence with a peasant who has tangible property. All he desires would be something to increase the profits of his agricultural industry. He certainly would welcome any program of improvement which omitted the Socialistic element, no matter what demagog proposed it, and especially the liberty to fish and shoot where and when he chose. Beyond that he is satisfied as he is."

In his famous work "Socialiste," in which he deals exhaustively with the economic and political condition of France at this present moment, Mr. Compère-Morel, the well-known authority, observes:

"I defy any militant propagandist of Socialism to make any headway in the country. Of course he may offer to meet and remedy the immediate grievances of the peasant, but he must not pretend to interfere with their personal possession of the land. The only thing that Socialism could promise the peasant would be an income equal to that he derives from the land he cultivates. This Utopian dream is far beyond the range of possibility. Meantime the peasant sticks to his territorial portion and kicks the Socialist preacher out of his hut."—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

HOLLAND AND GERMAN EXPLOITATION

IT is very natural that Germany should require the outlet to the sea which is alone to be furnished by the estuary of the Rhine. The French papers have recently been particularly exercised over the alleged designs of the Emperor William on the territory of the

A SWORD TOO BIG TOO LIFT.

EUROPE—"Thank heaven I can now rest in peace! Germany is so overarmed that she can do nothing." —*Rire* (Paris).

Netherlands. While friendly relations are maintained between the Court of Holland and that of Prussia, says the Paris *Intransigeant*, an organ of a distinctly antimonarchist tendency, friction must eventually ensue. To quote the words of this brilliant daily:

"The North Sea will never be the home of Germany's Navy until the scene of Van Tromp's exploits and maneuvers falls under the domination of the German flag. This, perhaps, is one of those irrefragable facts of politics that make the idea of universal and persistent peace so much of an optimistic dream. At the present

THE HEIRESS OF A COVETED CROWN.

This little Crown Princess is idolized by the people of Holland because the continuance of the royal line safeguards their independence.

time Europe trusts to the influence of Austria and France to preserve the Netherlands as a sort of neutral ground in Europe—the only kingdoms which enjoy security from the very fact of their insignificance."—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

VALUE OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS

SUCH a tirade of abuse is being directed at the House of Lords just now by the Liberal and Socialistic wing of the British press as to call for a reply. Their critics declare that the Peers know nothing outside of sports and the stage, and are merely a group of rich incompetents and degenerates who think they can run the country better than the elected representatives of the people. Here is a sample criticism of these men from the highly intellectual *Positivist Review* (London). After saying that "the House of Lords is become the refuge of the panic-stricken classes, holding titles, or land, or breweries, or financial and industrial concerns," the editor goes on with the description:

"It is a curious amalgamation of interests, bound together by no tie but fear of social reform. In the historic sense there is but a feeble trickling in its veins of any liquid that can be called 'blue blood.' Many of the titles are 'faked' or 'restored' like a picture-dealer's 'ancient master.' Many titles record a low amour, a political job, or sheer bribery. But together they have power, and they herd together like wild and domestic animals in a prairie fire—the thin remnant of the old feudal barons—interesting survivals after all the slaughter in the days of the 'Roses,' civil wars, Whig oligarchies, aldermanic ancestries, and American inheritances—money-changers who have never yet been driven out of our temple—and adventurers who know 'a real good thing' on the political turf. All of these together are shouting to the bewildered chiefs of the old governing class to risk a revolutionary throw, and chance what may come to our rickety old Constitution."

Such bitter criticism makes one curious to know what there is to

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be said on the other side. We find such a reply in no less weighty and authoritative journal than the London *Times*. Making a calm survey of the House of Lords and its history, this great newspaper remarks that such an examination "will show that the House of Lords contains a great proportion of men whose high capacity has been proved by long and important public services of the most varied kinds." Further:

"It will show that among its ranks are to be found an extraordinary number of our best men, covering a wide range of interests, men of high character and high distinction, accustomed to deal with great practical questions, not only in a few departments, but practically in all those out of which the common life of a great country and a great empire is built up.

"The House of Lords, it is true, is unreformed; but the curious thing is that, if it were reformed on any principle that could possibly commend itself to the common sense of the country, it would inevitably contain these very men who now compose its dominant and vital element. It contains, of course, those front-rank politicians on both sides whose names are perfectly familiar, and to whom the country is apt to look for a lead. It contains, moreover, a large infusion of men who have governed the great dependencies or colonies of the Empire, and who bring to the consideration of imperial matters, and of the interests of millions of the subjects of the Crown dwelling beyond the seas, a judgment and an experience far beyond the reach of nine out of ten of the elected members of the other House. It contains a number of men who are by common consent the chiefs of the legal profession. It contains, as this debate has conspicuously shown, many who give authoritative expression to the reasoned opinions of the city of London; that is to say, of the men whose own interests are bound up with those not only of the wealthy but of the millions of middle-class people whose material happiness depends upon the safety of their little investments. With these heads of the city may be grouped the numerous Peers who, as the chiefs of great businesses—railways, engineering works, factories, and what not—have in their hands the decision of questions which affect the welfare of thousands of workmen. Moreover, the House of Lords is strengthened by the presence of our greatest soldiers and sailors, by a certain number of leading men of science and men of letters; while the Bench of Bishops, that *bête-noire* of the political dissenters, represents not only the Establishment, and not only

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PEERS WHO VOTED AGAINST THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

These owners of thousands of acres voted for the Lloyd-George budget and its heavy tax on land. Some of the other Peers in this unselfish minority were Viscount Clifden, with 71,300 acres; the Earl of Craven, with 40,000; Lord Colebrook, with 30,000; Lord Castletown, with 20,000; the Earl of Beauchamp, with 18,000; the Earl of Kimberley, with 11,200; Lord Boston, with 9,000; Lord Aberdare, with 4,000; Lord Emly, with 2,800; and Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, with 2,500.

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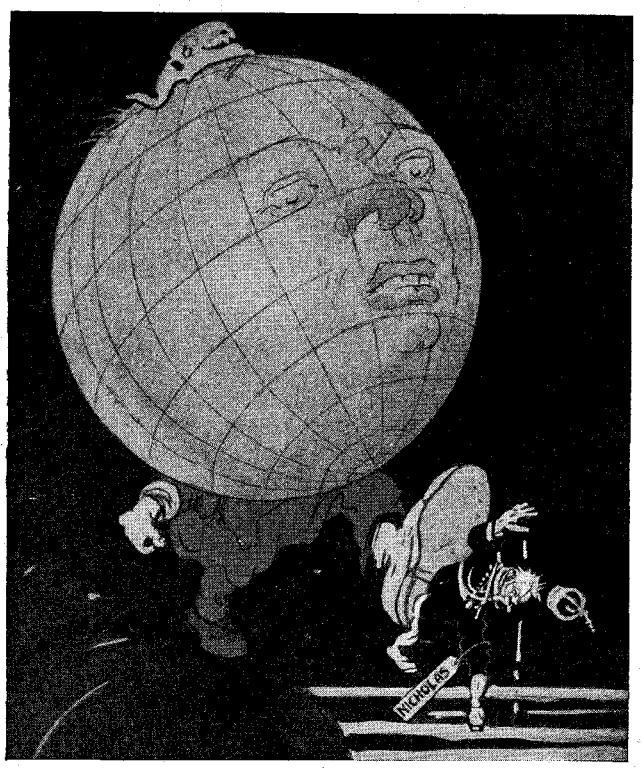
theological learning, but in many cases a high type of academical culture and in many others a wide, practical experience of the condition of the poor.

"Lastly, if we may refer for a moment to the most obvious characteristic of the House of Lords, a very large proportion of the Peers—including the majority of those who only attend the debates at rare intervals—are country-gentlemen whose life and interests are bound up with those of the countryside and the country towns. They are agriculturists, and many of them are high authorities on agriculture. Many are Lords-Lieutenant, and as such have lately won high praise from the Liberal Secretary for War. Great numbers are magistrates; many are hard-working county councilors or chairmen of quarter-sessions; they give a vast quantity of time, as Sir Edward Grey lately admitted, with much cordiality, in the case of the Duke of Northumberland, to unpaid local work. In every part of the country, indeed, they take their full share, and often more than their share of that widely ramified voluntary administrative system which is our happy substitute for a continental bureaucracy, and which fills all continental observers with increasing admiration."

FINLAND'S STRUGGLE WITH THE CZAR

THE possibility of a revolt in Finland against the Czar's attempt to tax the people against their will is hinted at by one of the St. Petersburg papers, and will afford an idea of the acuteness of the present struggle between the ruler and his supposedly



THE WORLD—"Get out, you brute!"
—*Wahre Jacob* (Stuttgart).

autonomous subjects. While Nicholas is the autocrat of all the Russias, he is only the Grand Duke of Finland, it will be remembered, which has its own Diet, and successfully resisted the efforts of 1899–1903 to take away its liberties. Now another effort is being made in the same direction, the Finns believe, so the Finnish Diet has rejected his proposals and the Czar has replied by dissolving the Diet and ordering a new election for February 1.

The quarrel is over the annual payment of $2,000,000 made by Finland in return for exemption from military service. It seems that the Czar recently issued a manifesto providing that this sum should be increased $200,000 a year for ten years, when the annual payment should be $4,000,000. The Diet objected, but not so much to the money involved, as to the principle. The Russian Government, on the contrary, maintains that the Diet has no voice in the matter, and holds that the question comes under the general powers of the central administration. So it is the old grievance of "taxation without representation," which needs no explanation in this country.

The dissolution of the Finnish Diet is an outrage upon the liberties of the people, say the Liberal papers of St. Petersburg, but the Monarchical organs think the Czar did not go far enough. Nothing less, it seems, would satisfy them than the complete obliteration of even a semblance of Finland's autonomy and its complete assimilation by Russia. The St. Petersburg *Sviet* says the Finnish people have lost their senses temporarily, and continues:

"The attitude of the Finnish politicians who, unfortunately, hold public opinion in their power, is sufficiently explained by the expressions of the Finnish members of the Russian-Finnish Commission. They insist, it seems, on the complete independence of Finland. In this regard, at the present moment, not the slightest concessions can be made. The speeches of Stolypine and the Russian members of the Commission leave no doubt that the dignity of Russia will be maintained even at the expense of a revolt. The majority in the Imperial Council as well as in the Douma will stand with the Government. We hear that the man who will be appointed General-Governor will prove a worthy successor of Bobrikov."

The man who has actually been appointed Governor of Finland is Lieut.-Gen. Frantz Seyn, who in a recent interview with a representative of the Paris *Figaro* spoke of the kindly intentions of the St. Petersburg Government toward Finland, with which country "a loyal and sincere *rapprochement* is the sole desideratum."

The St. Petersburg *Golos Pravdy* advocates the revision of the election law for the Finnish Diet in a manner to make such refractory conduct impossible in the future. To quote:

"The Russian Government must change the election law to secure not only the honor, dignity, and security of Russia, but also the welfare of Finland itself, which must not be revolutionized by the dissolutions of rebellious Diets and the convocations of new ones equally hostile to Russia and her Government. We must not forget either that frequent elections in Finland cost the Finnish treasury large sums of money, and this stirs up popular discontent. At the present critical and exciting stage in the relations between Russia and Finland, we must expect the Russian Government to take decisive steps. For the time of compromises of any sort is past."

The *Novoye Vremya* bluntly says it is high time for Finland to give up the rôle of an independent State, and declares there is no use dallying any further with Diets and the like:

"Enough attempts at harmony with Finland have been made, and after the Diet's insolent reply to the Imperial manifesto, there is no reason why we should try again to get a new Diet to solve the question of general legislation. However 'constitutional,' from a Cadet point of view, the conflict of the Government with the Diet may be, it is utterly futile. Not Finland, but Russia, must dictate the laws necessary for the welfare of the Empire. When England has misunderstandings with her colonies, she solves them without hesitation by act of Parliament, without concerning herself about provincial autonomy. Such a course of action is not based upon the right of power, but upon the necessity of the State."

The *Birzhevaya Viedomosty*, alarmed by this extremely reactionary agitation against Finland, warns the Finnish press to adopt a restrained tone and not to reply to the bullying Russian press in the same loud manner. It then enters a vigorous protest against any change in the election law, showing the futility of such a measure, as no election law could be devised that would make Finland elect a favorable Diet. The more stringent the law, the more it would rouse popular opposition, and the larger the majority returned against the bureaucracy. For there is not a single class of people in Finland upon which a government based upon the Bobrikov program could rely. The best way to obtain a peaceful solution of the question, it argues, is to refrain from making any attacks at all upon the legal rights of the Grand Principality of Finland.— *Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

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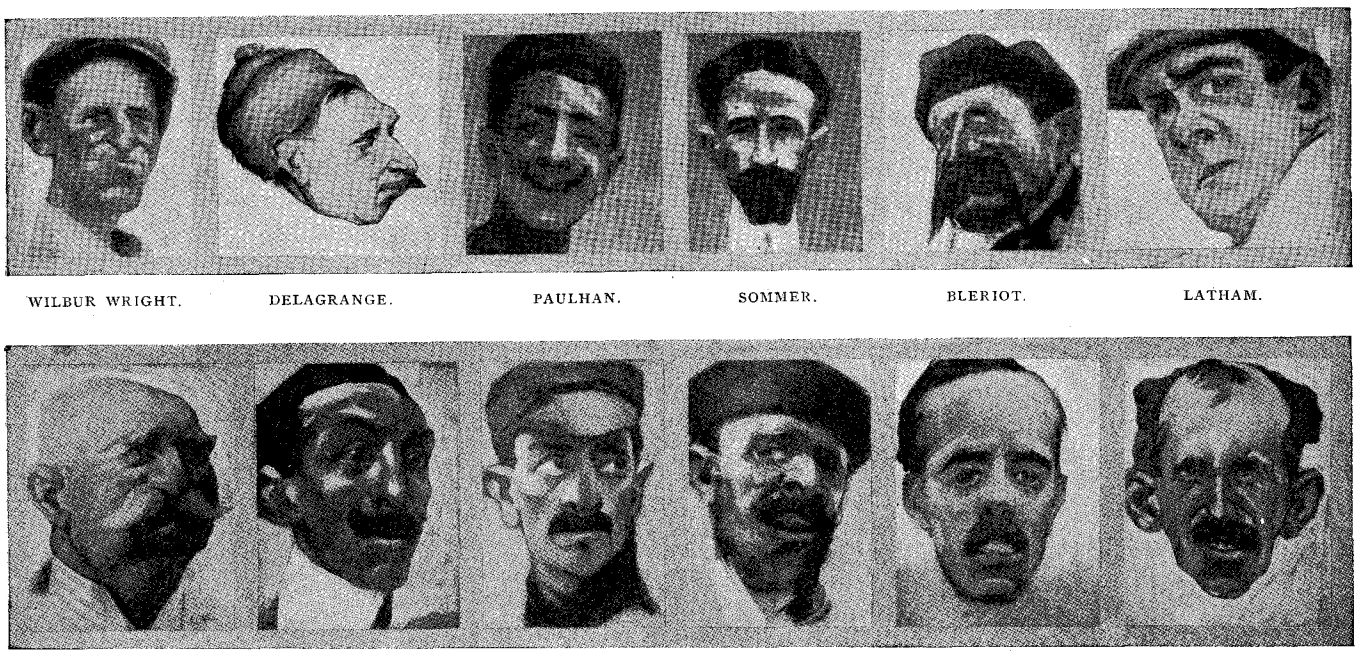
BRITISH BACKWARDNESS IN FLYING

WHY do the English, who pride themselves on their sporting blood, seem to take so little interest in the latest and most exciting thing in this line—the sport of flying? The nation is taken sharply to task by *Engineering* (London, November 26), for its inexplicable backwardness in aviation. There is no apparent reason for it. No unfavorable and hampering legislation, such as handicaps the electric industries in Britain, no lack of a good start—for the English were "among the first to take seriously to aeronautics"—has held our transatlantic cousins back. They have, nevertheless, sat calmly down and witnessed American, French, and German successes galore, while their own blood has apparently remained stagnant. Some of the abortive English attempts to do something aeronautic are satirized as follows:

"After being satisfied with seeing, and hearing of, remarkable results achieved abroad, this country gradually realized, some time ago, its true position. The Government attempted to grapple with the situation, and Mr. Haldane delivered a lengthy speech in the House of Commons. Robbed of all rhetorical ornamentation, however, this amounted to little more than the announcement: 'We have an engine and a car; all we want is a gas-bag,' reminding us of the would-be motorist who, knowing full well that a car was beyond his means, consoled himself with the purchase of a motor-cap. Mr. Haldane's confidence is reposed in dirigibles, as the above remark implies. . . . Yet, even since the occasion above referred to, when Mr. Haldane made many depreciatory remarks concerning aeroplanes, the progress made with them has been enormous. Mr. Farman has, for instance, covered a distance of 144 miles, and Mr. O. Wright, in Berlin, has flown at an 'unofficial' height of 500 meters. The Comte de Lambert, in his flight over Paris and round the Eiffel Tower, has accomplished one of the boldest feats witnessed for many a long day. M. Paulhan is reported to have reached the altitude of 1,800 feet recently at Bouy, tho this height has not yet been accepted as official. He has officially attained a height of over 1,200 feet, however, at Bouy, and M. Latham a height of over 1,300 feet. All these achievements bespeak extremely rapid progress, the like of which can not be shown in the case of the lighter-than-air machines, whose progress is so slow as to amount to little more than stagnation. In view of recent progress, who can say what the future may have in store? The modern bicycle, motor-car, high-speed steamer, etc., are all so different from their inventors' prototypes that it would be rash to attempt much in the way of a forecast. One thing seems clear, however, and that is that we should actively encourage development, and, by all means, help forward that branch of the science which appears of the greatest promise."



WILBUR WRIGHT. DELAGRANGE. PAULHAN. SOMMER. BLERIOT. LATHAM.

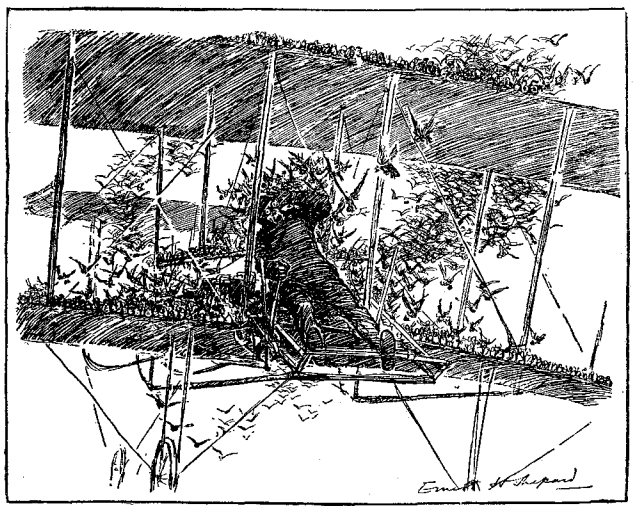
ZEPPELIN. CALDERARA. CURTISS. FARMAN SANTOS DUMONT. ORVILLE WRIGHT.

AIRY LOOKS OF THE AVIATORS, AS SEEN IN CARICATURE.

—From *Ueber Land und Meer* (Stuttgart).

The haphazard methods of would-be English aviators is contrasted unfavorably with the systematic experimentation carried on in other countries. To quote:

"Many people among us seem to think that any kind of machine will fly, and dabblers of all sorts consider they have solved the problem once for all. Our few earnest workers worry along independently, often working over ground already covered and proved barren by some one else, until financial stress directs their attention to other matters. It is difficult to say why so few of the efforts made here should fructify, unless it be that they are mostly made along erroneous lines. The proportions of weight, surface, and power of the successful machines of to-day are all well known, and any engineer should be able, with these limits, to produce a machine that would rise. The fact is that the movement is not altogether in the right hands. It has got into the hands of sportsmen



THE HAPPY CHANCE.

CHORUS OF MIGRATING BIRDS—"Come on, boys; this special's going due South!" —*Punch* (London).

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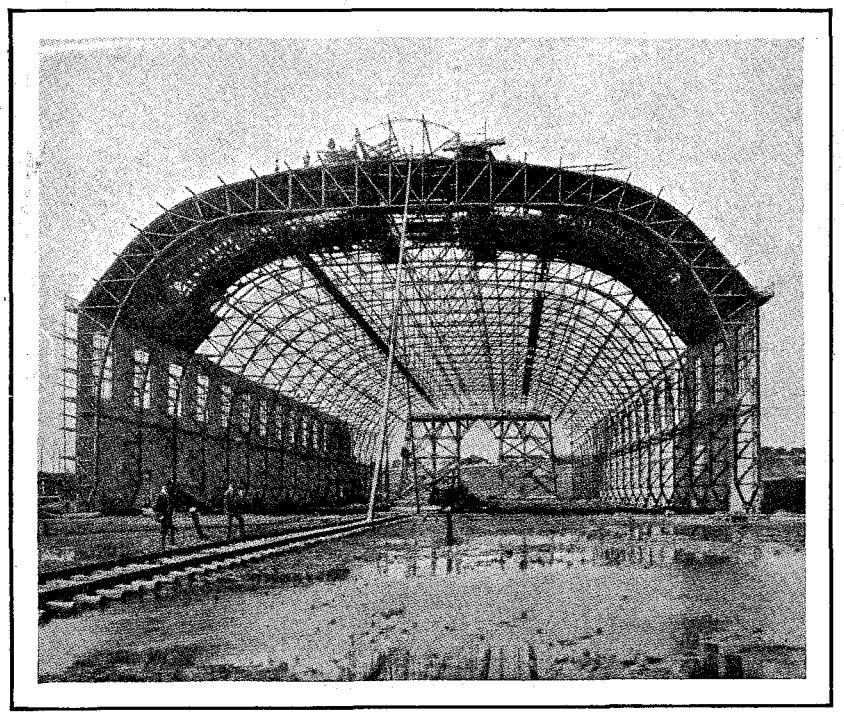
and dilettante enthusiasts, and, with a few exceptions, is not taken up by engineers."

The trouble is, curiously enough, that this king of sports is suffering in England at the hands of sportsmen, especially the members of the Aero Club, whose performances the writer regards as "sophomoric." Sport, he reminds us, altho it has in the past been of service in new developments, and was, for instance, of material value in the development of motor-cars, needs to be kept in its proper place. In motoring the racing-car has largely given place to the touring vehicle—a more rational machine. Similarly in aviation, the machine now built merely to win races will probably, in time, when the movement has become leavened with the ideas of engineers, give place to more serviceable types. The exclusion of the engineer from the development of aviation has prevented this kind of development in England, while it has rapidly taken place in America and France. Thus its progress, even as a sport, has been retarded, for a purely mechanical sport can not be trusted to sportsmen who are not at the same time mechanics. The writer concludes:

"In the early part of the year we passed through an aeronautical-invasion scare. Men, dreaming, thought they saw 'Fierce fiery warriors fight upon the clouds, in ranks and squadrons and right form of war'; and it may be that the Aero Club's behavior echoes of this scare. Such puny protection as it can afford us is, however, not needed yet, and such is our backward state that it is at present to our advantage that we should see all there is to be seen of this kind of thing, in order the better to make our progress when we do get under way. Rather than occupying itself in placing a ban upon meetings and disqualifying men who can fly, the Aero Club would be better employing its time in endeavoring to discourage such attempts at flight in public as bring ridicule on us as a nation.

"The present regrettable situation, precipitated by a sophomoric club, needs to be quickly righted if our credit is to be retained. Neither sport nor the real value, which, after all, is the great thing of aviation, will be encouraged by vetoing meetings and disqualifying several of the still few proficient manipulators of aeroplanes. On the other hand, combined effort, in which science is encouraged to advance with sport, may, in the not distant future, lead to most interesting results. At the same time we need not even despair of the club, for does not Robert Louis Stevenson assure us that 'it is better to be a fool than to be dead,' especially if the folly perpetrated be an indiscretion of youth—youth which elsewhere he describes as jogging on the foot-path way, pursuing butterflies. The Aero Club has at least proved itself alive by its action, and as it is as yet quite an infant among clubs, we may still have good hopes of its future."



SHED OF THE ZEPPELIN AIRSHIP-FACTORY AT FRIEDRICHSHAFEN.

A GIANT SHED FOR DIRIGIBLES

THE accompanying picture does not represent the train-shed of a great railway station, as might be supposed. The building shown is intended to house but two huge vehicles, which will fill it not only from side to side, but from roof to floor. These will be air-ships of the Zeppelin type, which will be built in this shed, supplemented by the resources of an adjoining machine-shop. Says Alfred Gradenwitz in *La Nature* (Paris, November 20):

"The new balloon-house of the Zeppelin Company at Friedrichshafen, which is notable for its huge size, is destined to serve, not as a garage for aerostats, as has been frequently affirmed, but as an aerial workshop for aerial construction. Thus it has as an annex a great factory where the various parts of dirigible balloons will be made.

"The house is intended to shelter, during construction, two dirigibles of the largest type, and it has imposing lines (650 feet long, 100 feet wide in the lower part, and 65 feet high in the center). Its form was selected with a view to reducing interference with the contents to a minimum, without endangering the stability of the building.

"To keep the space within, as far as possible, from the influence of the sun's rays and other meteorologic factors, which might cause rapid alterations of volume in the balloons and promote leakage of gas, the builders have chosen, as a covering for roof and walls, a substance of slight conductivity for heat and so light as not to overweight the structure. The roof is made of a layer of cement 3 inches thick, covered with rubberoid; the walls are of iron network. The longitudinal walls have a double layer of masonry with a non-conducting layer of air between. The transverse walls, which are made to operate as gates and are consequently of extreme lightness, are of galvanized iron on the outside and of cloth within, with an air layer between.

"In order to draw off quickly the gas that escapes while a balloon is being filled, there has been built at the top of the structure a lantern extending for its full length, and having a ventilator for getting rid of the interior air.

"That access to all points of a balloon in process of construction or repair may be as easy as possible, there have been placed at the sides of the structure portable working-galleries extending along its whole length, and stationary bridges fixt on both sides of the hall.

"The Zeppelin Company required, as an indispensable condition, that the two ends of the building should be so constructed as to give clear passage, in as brief a time as possible, to the balloon within. The portals were thus built large enough to permit the rapid opening and closing of a section 65 by 140 feet. This condition was the most formidable part of the work.

"The gates are operated by electricity; the surface of each includes four sections 65 feet high. The two central sections have the form of sliding doors and the two lateral ones that of folding doors."—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

STERILIZATION BY FLAT-IRON—The ironing of linen was never intended as a sanitary process; nevertheless, it appears probable that it acts as an efficient disinfectant. As a writer in *Cosmos* (Paris) says:

"The smoothing of household linen with a hot flat-iron may accomplish much more than is intended by laundresses. As the iron is heated to temperatures that often exceed 130° C. it has been thought that it must be able to sterilize certain fabrics and thus render hygienic service, especially in the country, where furnaces for disinfection or autoclaves for sterilization are not available. It is well known that all microbes may be killed by the sufficiently prolonged application of a temperature of 70° C.; but sterilization requires 130° because the spores of certain bacteria resist lower temperatures. Experiments have been made to show that the flat-iron is capable at least of disinfecting linen. Pieces of cloth were

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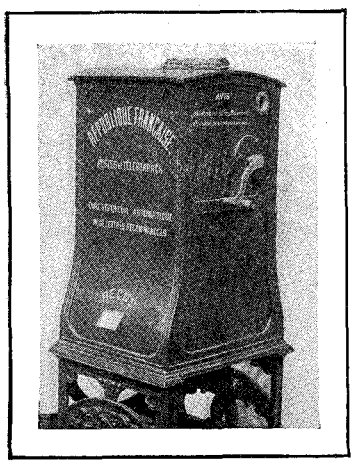
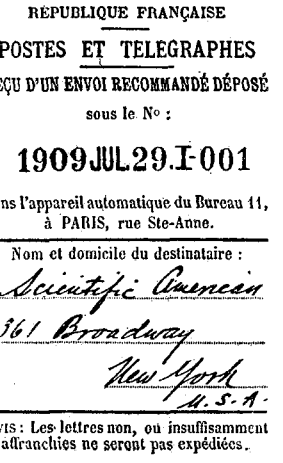


By courtesy of "The Scientific American."

APPARATUS IN A PARIS POST-OFFICE.



RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES

REÇU D'UN ENVOI RECOMMANDÉ DÉPOSÉ

sous le N° :

1909JUL29.I-001

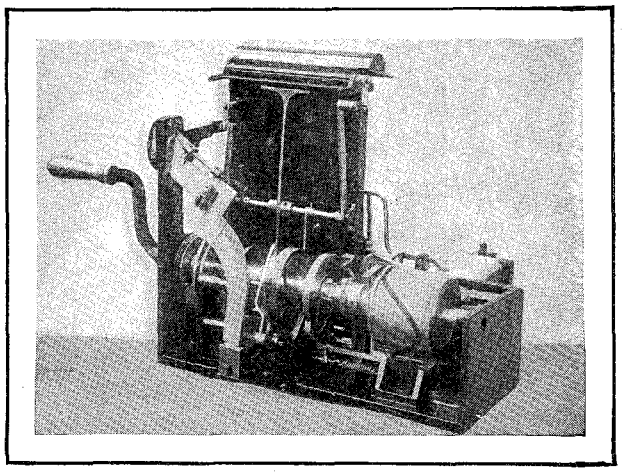
dans l'appareil automatique du Bureau 11, à PARIS, rue Ste-Anne.

Nom et domicile du destinataire :

Scientific American
361 Broadway
New York
U.S.A.

AVIS : Les lettres non, ou insuffisamment affranchies ne seront pas expédiées.

RECEIPT ISSUED BY THE MACHINE.



INTERIOR MECHANISM.

COIN-CONTROLLED APPARATUS FOR REGISTERING LETTERS.

Described below in article on "Postal Registry by Slot-Machine."

selected that had been in contact with children suffering from contagious disease, or had been contaminated with the germs of diphtheria, pyemia, etc. This linen was moistened and then ironed, after which it was rubbed on plates of gelatin prepared for the culture of microbes. It was found that no microbian colony developed."—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

HARVESTING BERRIES WITH A THRASHING-MACHINE

THAT, in arid Idaho, raspberries dry on the vines, and that when fully dry the vines are cut and the berries knocked off and cleaned by running them through a sort of thrashing-machine, is the tale vouched for by *The Rural New Yorker* (New York, December 4). It admits that all this seems incredible to people who live in damper regions where the crop is picked by hand and dried in an evaporator; yet—

"After some investigation we believe the facts are as stated, and offer them—not because these methods can be generally adopted, but because they show us all how farming is developing. As the result of hard study and careful experiment men everywhere are learning to adapt their methods and their crops to local conditions. In every section there is some crop that will pay better than others. Successful farming means—finding that crop and working it hard."

As testimony to the accuracy of what precedes, the editor presents the following letter from M. B. Sherman, the owner of the fruit-farm in Idaho, to which allusion is made. Mr. Sherman writes:

"Your readers who have never experienced the climate in this very arid region will find it hard to believe my story, yet this method is entirely practical, and is well understood by everybody here. It is an enterprise which affords a magnificent opportunity for some man of means and energy. . . . . .

"In trellising the bushes down we press them as close to the ground as possible, and secure them there as nearly as can be done by stretching a light wire over them and securing it to stakes set 20 feet apart. They naturally recoil somewhat, however, so that but few of the bushes lie on the ground. I would prefer that they would lie prone on the ground for convenience in harvesting. The berries do not become soiled, as the fruit spurs grow upward, and so hold the fruit above the soil, and for the most part above the reclining branches and leaves, presenting a very interesting spectacle when the fruiting is heavy. I plant the bushes close together, so that the reclining vines shade the ground completely, thus choking out the weeds. I cultivate on one side of the row as needed through the season, which is all that is necessary in this climate. I must advise you, however, that my method would not be practical anywhere east of the Rocky Mountains, and only in favored localities here, since the dews and rains would ruin the ripened fruit before it could dry sufficiently to harvest. We have no rain and little dew in July and August."

"LAYING" A RIVER TUNNEL

SUBAQUEOUS tunnels are now often built in the open air and then sunk into place beneath the waters of river or estuary. This will be the procedure in the case of a new passageway under the Chicago River. Says a writer in *The Nautical Gazette* (New York, November 11):

"Like a gigantic, black sea-serpent, putting to shame all salt-water yarns of the type, the steel and concrete bore of the La Salle Street tunnel will wriggle up the Chicago River and sink out of sight under the waves at the spot where it will thereafter form one of the city's thoroughfares. The steel 'serpent' will be 280 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 20 feet high, with steel spurs 6 feet long projecting from its sides every 3 feet like the terrifying legs of an immense centipede. Radical departure in all established methods of river-tunnel construction will be made in laying the La Salle Street bore. . . . . .

"It is expected that river traffic will be stopt for more than two hours in setting the immense section of tunnel in place. When everything is ready the power gates of the drainage canal will be shut at Lockport to quiet the strong current of the river and the start up the river with the 'serpent' from the boiler-works, which is on the south branch, will be made.

"Before the bore is sunk into place the river will be excavated to the required depth by marine dredges with 50-foot beam-arms. In the center of the river a steel cradle will be sunk for the 'serpent' to rest on. The shell will be finished complete at the boiler works. In the center every 30 feet will be hoops of 12-inch channel-iron, like a series of ribs. A thick concrete lining will be built between, and down the center will be a concrete wall dividing the 'serpent' into two tubes, each large enough to accommodate the largest trolley-cars.

"When these preparations are completed both ends of the 'serpent' will be closed by wooden bulkheads, it will be slid on to flat-boats and the procession up the river, dodging bridges and boats and edging around curves, started. The flatboats will be so coupled that they can be pulled apart, letting the bore drop into its place in the water."

POSTAL REGISTRY BY SLOT-MACHINE—A mechanical device, used in one of the city post-offices in Paris for automatic registration of letters and the issuance of a receipt to the sender, is described in *The Scientific American* (New York, December 4). Says this paper:

"The apparatus is arranged to receive the French nickel, or 25-centime piece. Advantage is taken of the fact that it is slightly magnetic, for in passing down the coin chute it is obliged to leap a gap and is prevented from dropping through by means of a magnet. A counterfeit of iron can not pass the gap because it would be lifted up by the magnet, while non-magnetic coins would fall through. The letter-slot does not open until after the coin is placed in the machine, and the receipt is not issued until after the

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letter is placed in the machine. The receipt, in the form of a ticket, is dated and stamped by turning the crank at the side of the apparatus. The whole operation is performed in less than five seconds, and is calculated to do away with the long line of waiting applicants at the usual registering-windows. The apparatus can also be placed in banks or stores, where there is no danger of its being stolen, thus relieving the pressure at the regular post-office."

GREAT EFFECTS FROM SMALL CAUSES

SOME interesting instances of the way in which chemical actions or processes may often be profoundly modified by the presence of very small quantities of foreign material is given by Dr. James C. Philip, of London, in his new book on "The Romance of Modern Chemistry." To start off with, he instances water, one of the commonest of substances, which has recently been shown to have extraordinary influence in promoting chemical action between other substances. He says:

"The reader is probably familiar with the experiment in which a lighted taper is brought to the mouth of a soda-water bottle containing a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen. A vigorous action, marked by a violent explosion, takes place. . . . Yet, if care is taken to remove all traces of moisture from the original gases, . . . a tube containing a mixture of perfectly dry hydrogen and perfectly dry oxygen may be strongly heated without the contents exploding —a really astounding result. . . . . .

"This extraordinary influence of water on chemical change is so remarkable that it is worth while to refer to another interesting experiment that has been made. As the reader is aware, ammonia is a colorless alkaline gas, whereas hydrogen chlorid is a colorless acid gas. Like alkalies and acids in general, these two gases interact, forming a salt—ammonium chlorid or sal ammoniac—the characteristic and curious feature of the process being the production of this white solid substance from two colorless, invisible gases. It turns out now that this combination between ammonia and hydrogen chlorid, which takes place so readily under ordinary circumstances, is not observed when the gases have first been completely freed from all stray water molecules.

"The ordinary incandescent mantle is an excellent example of the value which may attach to small quantities of foreign material. The mantle consists to the extent of 99 per cent. of thoria, which is the oxid of the metal thorium. . . . The remaining 1 per cent. of the mantle is ceria, the oxid of the rare metal cerium, and, in spite of its small proportion, it is on this admixture that the virtue of the mantle wholly depends. Mantles composed of pure thoria alone would be of no use, for when put in a Bunsen flame they give out only a dull light. On the other hand, if more than 1 per cent. of ceria is added to the thoria a less brilliant effect is obtained; it is, in fact, possible to have too much of a good thing.

"Not only has this paltry 1 per cent. of ceria made the incandescent mantle a brilliant success; it has indirectly been the salvation of the gas industry. In competition with electricity, gas would have been badly beaten as a source of light had it not been for the discovery of the incandescent mantle. By its agency the illuminating power of a cubic foot of coal gas is enormously increased. . . . . .

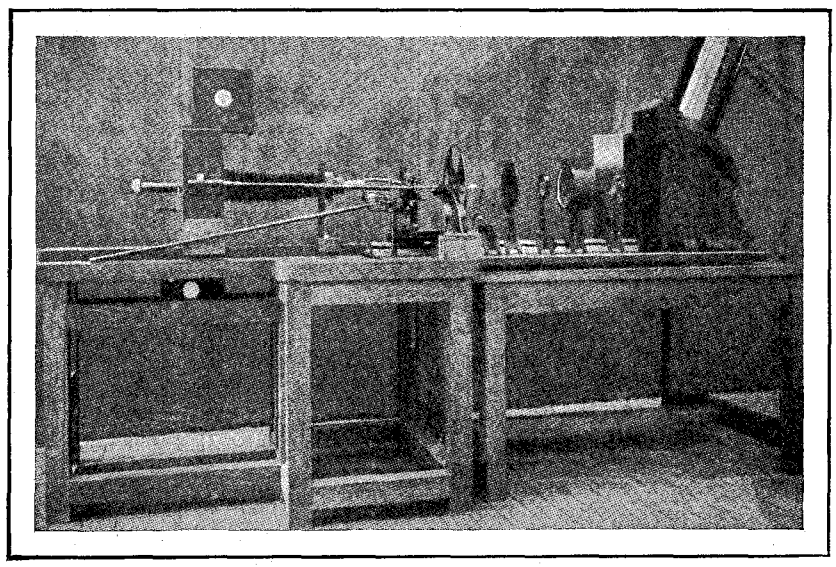
"Another interesting illustration of the extraordinary influence exerted by small quantities of foreign matter is furnished by the behavior of certain phosphorescent substances. Among them are the sulfids of the metals barium, strontium, and calcium, and, as the name 'phosphorescent' implies, these sulfids are luminous in a dark room after they have been brought out of the light. Luminous paints or luminous compositions generally are dependent for their characteristic behavior on the presence of such a phosphorescent substance. Curiously enough, however, the pure materials do not appear to be phosphorescent; it is only when minute traces of other matter are present that they are stimulated to luminous activity."

Chemical changes of this kind are not merely laboratory curiosities—they are, the writer tells us, of the utmost importance in the technical world. The most modern method of manufacturing sulfuric acid, for instance, depends on just such a change. In making this important product it is necessary to persuade sulfur dioxid—the suffocating gas produced when sulfur is burned—to combine with more oxygen. To do this, the gases must be brought into contact with some third substance which plays the same part as water does in the combination of hydrogen and oxygen. We read:

"In the case of sulfur dioxid and oxygen the third party, which acts in some subtle way as mediator between the other two, is platinum in a finely divided condition. This metal has quite a reputation for accelerating chemical actions in which it is not directly involved; it is a sort of chemical busybody. . . . Under the persuasive influence of the catalytic agent at a temperature of about 500° F., sulfur dioxid and oxygen readily unite to form another compound named sulfur trioxid, which need only be dissolved in water to produce sulfuric acid. . . . . .

"In recent years platinum has been prepared in another condition in which it exhibits remarkable catalytic activity, namely, in solution in water. It may seem to the reader rather absurd to speak of dissolving a metal in water, as if it were so much sugar or salt, but it is indeed a fact that by the help of the electric current platinum has been got into water in such a state that it closely resembles a dissolved substance. If two pieces of stout platinum wire are immersed in water so that their points are very close together, and an electric discharge is passed across the intervening space, the water gradually assumes a deep brown color, and is found then to contain platinum in solution. At least it seems to be in solution, for the liquid may be filtered through a piece of blotting-paper without leaving any particles behind, and it may be kept for a long time without depositing any sediment. On grounds, however, into which we can not go here, the view is adopted that this platinum solution is really a suspension of exceedingly minute particles, so tiny that they can find their way through the pores of filtering-paper.

"However that may be, there is no doubt that platinum in this condition is intensely active. . . . A convincing proof of the power of this solution is obtained by shaking some of it in a flask with a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen. In ordinary circumstances these two gases require to be strongly heated before they will combine to form water, but under the persuasive influence of the platinum solution they unite *at the temperature of the room*, slowly but steadily and without any fuss. The extraordinary thing is that a minute quantity of platinum is able to bring about the combination of very large quantities of hydrogen and oxygen. One experiment has been recorded in which, under the influence of the $\frac{1}{16000}$ of an ounce of platinum, over two gallons of a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen disappeared in seventeen days. And the platinum was as active at the end of this period as at the beginning!



CINEMATOGRAPHING THE INVISIBLE.

The apparatus that takes "living pictures" of microbes. Described on the opposite page.

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"There are numerous catalytic agents in addition to those which are used in the laboratory or the factory. Our bodies are the scene of many chemical changes which are promoted and accelerated by the influence of certain agents called enzyms, the exact nature of which is not yet known. These substances play an important part as catalytic agents, notably in the processes of digestion, but an excursion into this interesting field would take us too far. Perhaps enough has been said to convince the reader that in chemistry, at least, much that is apparently insignificant is of the greatest value and importance."

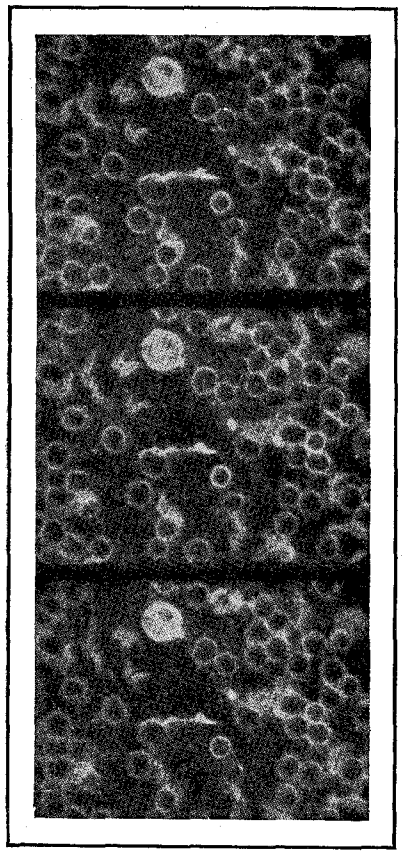
BIBLICAL ELECTRICITY

A CURIOUS study entitled "Electrotechnics in the Bible" is contributed by E. Stadelmann, an electric engineer of Munich, to the *Electrotechnische Anzeiger*. The writer asserts that the ancient Jews had some knowledge of electricity, and he tries to prove this by an ingenious analysis of Scriptural narrative. In the first place, says Stadelmann, Moses evidently understood the uses of the lightning conductor. As we read in an abstract of his article in the *Revue Scientifique* (Paris, November 13):

"Did he not make a brazen serpent to defend his people against the fiery serpents (lightnings) sent upon them by the Almighty, so that the fiery serpents were seized by the brazen one? The temple at Jerusalem was protected against lightning by interconnected metal points communicating with the ground through reservoirs of water."

Still more curious is the explanation given by Mr. Stadelmann of the construction of the Ark of the Covenant and of the terrible punishments visited upon the unfortunates who dared to approach too near it:

"If we study the details of its construction we find that it was composed of an insulating receptacle (of acacia wood) and of two metallic coatings (gilding), one exterior, one interior; it therefore formed a Leyden jar of great dimensions. This condenser, charged with atmospheric electricity by the metal conductors of the temple roof, had, as may be calculated from its dimensions, a capacity amply sufficient to produce a fatal discharge. Only the initiate could touch it, and this immunity enjoyed by the officiating priest is explained by the nature of his costume, which was in part of gold tissue, thus protecting him from electric discharges."



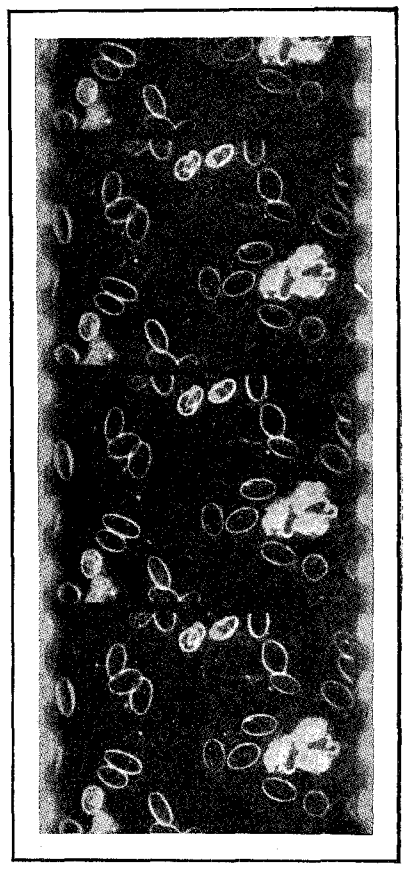
SLEEPING-SICKNESS GERMS IN CIRCULATION,
As seen on a moving-picture film. The germs are seen between the globules.

Mr. Stadelmann cites in support of his hypothesis many Scriptural texts, on the construction of the Ark, on the nature of the priest's costume, and on the punishment dealt out to profane persons. Moreover:

"The altar, also, must have been a powerful Leyden jar, altho information regarding its installation is not available; but the passages in the Mosaic books forbidding approach to it on penalty of death to persons not wearing the prescribed costume, authorize us to consider it such.

"It would perhaps appear improbable that such powerful effects could be obtained with metallic rods on elevated points, but we must bear in mind the atmospheric peculiarities of Palestine; and even the experiments made in Europe on the collection of electricity by means of kites, have shown that huge sparks nine or ten feet long may thus be obtained.

"Moses probably got his notions of electricity from the Egyptians, and perhaps, Mr. Stadelmann concludes, Egyptologists may discover facts indicative of the state of electrical knowledge in the Pharaonic times." — *Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.



GERMS IN THE BLOOD OF A FOWL.
Part of a moving-picture film.

THE MICRO-CINEMATOGRAPH — The combination of microscope and cinematograph by means of which Dr. Comandon, of Paris, has been able to exhibit microbes and blood-globules in motion was described in a recent number of THE LITERARY DIGEST.

We now reproduce from *The Illustrated London News* (November 27) a photograph of Dr. Comandon's apparatus, and sections of the "living pictures" taken and exhibited by its means. Says the paper named above:

"With the aid of this apparatus, it is possible to take cinematograph pictures of microbes that are invisible to the naked eye, and project those pictures on to a screen in the usual manner. Sixteen views are taken each second. In description of the apparatus, we may give the following details (reading from right to left). The lamp, the lens, the diaphragm, a disk which makes it possible to arrest at will the rays from the lamp, the microscope, set horizontally, and the cinematograph."

The statement quoted in our issue for November 27 from a London paper, to the effect that the objects revealed by the micro-cinematograph are .125 inch in diameter, is evidently an error. This dimension (⅛ inch) is quite visible to the naked eye. Blood corpuscles, which are clearly shown, are .0003 to .0004 inch in diameter.

COMMENTING on a recent quotation from an address by Dr. Wiley in our October 21st issue, in which he compared the modern housewife to a murderous Lucretia Borgia, "handing out poison from the ice-box, the boiler, and the skillet," Mr. H. L. Harris, of New York, writes us as follows: "It certainly is well to warn the public about the danger of keeping too much food and too little ice in the ice-box, and the necessity of removing food from tin cans into glass or earthen vessels. The general public does not know that the temperature in the ice-box is not low enough to kill bacteria, and that the longer an article of food is kept in an ice-box, the quicker it deteriorates upon removal therefrom. The danger of impure food is greater than is generally supposed. It is not necessary for food to be unfit for consumption when poisonous germs are formed, and it is impossible to detect such germs by the eye, taste, or smell. On account of this fact food should be properly preserved and consumed as soon as possible, especially such food as meat, milk, sausage, fish, etc. Since the Pure Food Law has prohibited the use of boron compounds, which were largely used on meat, fish, fowl, and oysters, according to statistics there have been 16,466 cases of ptomain poisoning in the United States, 572 of which were fatal. It can be seen from these statistics that there is more danger than is generally supposed in partaking of food that has deteriorated so as to become a suitable breeding-place for poisonous germs. The Pure Food Law can not conscientiously be called a success as long as it prohibits the use of innocent preservatives that have the antiseptic properties to prevent the growth of poisonous germs, and by so doing enable food-products to reach the consumer's palate in a sweet, edible, nutritious condition."

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THE DEVIL OF OUR DAY

EACH age has its devil, and ours is apparently not nearly so honest a demon as earlier ages have boasted. At least so a writer in *The Outlook* (December 18) conceives him. "The devil of the earlier time," says this writer, "was a hideous creature whose aspect went a long way toward disarming him by giving his victims a strong sense of repulsion." His successor of the Middle Ages was "the interesting gentleman in crimson with whom *Faust* had dealings, and whose final defeat in that transaction was symbolic of the victory of unselfishness over greed and meanness." But to-day the devil's "sovereign power," his "high condition as an archangel" has gone. "He no longer fights in the open like a lost spirit that has kept its courage, but stabs from behind and in the dark like any vulgar assassin." His features are more fully sketched in these words:

"The twentieth-century devil is simply a mean, demoralizing, debilitating habit of doubting; a sneering, scoffing mood; a cynical spirit which derides the virtue it can not attain and the goodness it does not understand. In *Faust's* time the devil was 'the spirit that denies,' but he stood up to his argument and was not afraid to nail his theses on the doors of the university; to-day he sneaks about the world dropping the poison of cynicism, the bitter distillation of doubt, into the cup of life at the very moment when it is held foaming to the lips."

Dr. Abbott is not here simply exercising his ingenuity in Satanic portraiture, but is preaching a Christmas sermon; and thus continues:

"The devil in every age has hated holy water, and the sight of the cross has turned his most brilliant audacity into shriveling cowardice; to-day he shrinks into insignificance when the Christmas glow falls on him. He loathes the good cheer, the kindly feeling, the warm heart of Yuletide, and when holiday week begins his animosity and ingenuity drive him into superhuman activity. In the light that streams from the hearth he looks so small and black that he doubts himself; and when the devil doubts himself he is on the verge of suicide, for to doubt that you doubt is the first step toward belief, and belief destroys the devil. In holiday week the devil's chief business is to sneer at the well-worn festivities which have kept the heart of the world young for almost twenty centuries and to scoff at those who make merry with the children as weak sentimentalists or shallow optimists, for it is an old device of the devil to frighten the warm-hearted and hopeful by calling them sentimental and shallow. In Shakespeare's greatest play, *Polonius*, the experienced old courtier, loads his son *Laertes*, who is about to go into the world, with the kind of advice which keeps a man out of trouble by locking up all his daring hopes, his fine ambitions, and his generous impulses. George MacDonald has said very justly that *Polonius's* advice would have been sound if the devil had been God! Now this is precisely what the devil would like to be, and this is the secret of his relentless hatred of all nobleness of feeling, generosity of impulse, and kindly activity. He no longer frightens people with horns and hoofs; but he wears good clothes, uses good English, has the air of knowing the world from top to bottom, and frightens a host of people by his superior way of sneering at the things which are sweet and true and wholesome."

His greatest modern triumph, the writer goes on to say, "is his ability to persuade men to reject the deepest instincts, the purest feelings, the divinations of the spirit, the impulses of the heart, the golden legends of the saints, as untrustworthy, and to accept in their place the findings of a logical faculty which, like Mr. Gradgrind, of Coketown, will have the fact and nothing but the fact, tho it lose its soul by starvation." Further:

"It is a very mean little devil who befuddles the brains of men about Christmas and its festivities of faith and love, its ancient and unforgetable poetry of the divinity of the child and the adoration of the wise and the joy of angels—a devil so small and mean that in the glow of the Christmas fire he contracts into a little black spot. If Christmas fires were lighted in all homes as fires are lighted in the woods to keep off wild beasts, we should soon make an end of this skulking devil. The glowing hearth, the shining star, the pealing of bells, the music of carols, the stirring of generous impulses in the hearts that he has chilled, strike him with a premonition of death, as the sight of the cross in the old plays and stories blighted and disarmed him. He is much more disturbed by the sound of 'The Golden Carol,' 'Gloria in Excelsis,' and 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' than by big books of theology. 'The Christmas Carol' and all stories of grace and sentiment and generous feeling are on his Index Expurgatorius; and in the joy in children's voices and on the faces of their elders he reads his doom.

"Those who are fighting the good fight of faith and love and hope against cynicism, scorn, and doubt have no need of other weapons than those which Christmas puts into their hands: the humility of a child, faith in the soul as well as the body of life, the habit of helpfulness, the gentle heart, and faith in love and purity and brotherliness as the regenerating forces in society."

MISSIONS TO AFRICA AND THE BOWERY

PRESIDENT TAFT struck a blow at one of our oldest traditions as a nation when he told the Methodists at Carnegie Hall on December 13 that Washington's warning in his farewell address against mingling in foreign matters had practically no meaning for us of this day. And in particular it should certainly not be used against the cause of foreign missions. The occasion for his utterance was the celebration of the diamond jubilee anniversary of the institution of the first foreign mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Africa. He referred to a particular date which, he thought, might be taken as marking the time when "the people of the United States acquired a wider and a world feeling, and an interest and a responsibility for all the people of the world as distinguished from those that enjoy our opportunities of living under the Stars and Stripes." He went on:

"It is not perhaps appropriate to date a religious movement from a war, but it does seem to me as if our people acquired a world feeling from the time we undertook the responsibility of freeing Cuba and saying what should be done by our neighbors with reference to internal government when that internal government seemed to us to pass the bounds of what we thought to be civilization. We began our war, expecting to finish it shortly, and we landed in

OUR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.
Will it come to this?
—After Widney in *The World To-day* (December).

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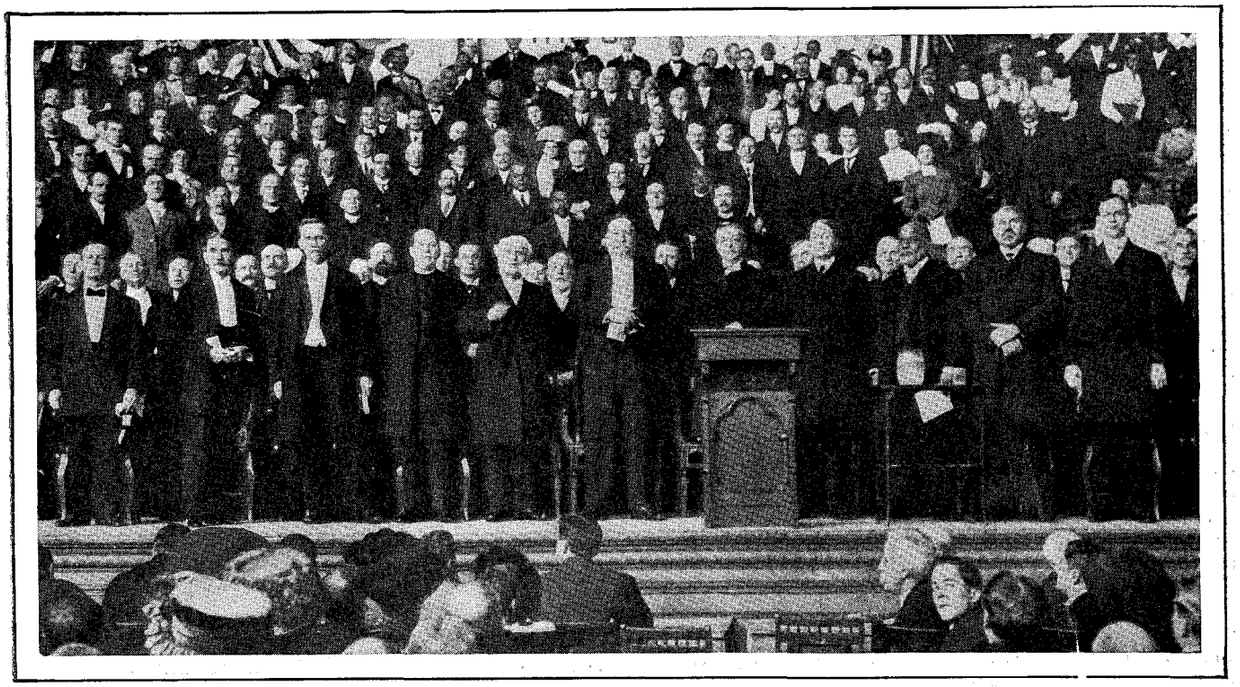

By courtesy of the New York "Tribune."

PRESIDENT TAFT BEFORE THE METHODIST MISSIONARY MASS MEETING,

Where he declared that "now we are a nation of tremendous power and tremendous wealth, and unless we use that for the benefit of our international neighbors . . . we are failing to discharge the duties we ought to feel as members of the international community."

the Philippines, and we are there still, but our horizon has widened much beyond these gems of the Pacific Ocean by reason of the responsibilities which we have been obliged to assume with reference to the entire world. We are a great power in the world, and we may be, and I hope we are, a great power for usefulness, a great power for the spread of Christian civilization, and we must be so if we would justify our success and vindicate our right to enjoy the opportunities that God has given us in this fair, broad land of building up wealth and comfort and luxury and education and making ourselves, what we like to think we are, the foremost people of the world.

"There are those who would read the last words of Washington in his farewell message as an indication that we ought to keep within the seas, and not look beyond, but he was addressing thirteen States that had much to do before they could make themselves a great nation, and that might well avoid entangling alliances and any foreign interference or any foreign trouble while they were making themselves a nation, but now we are a nation with tremendous power and tremendous wealth, and unless we use that for the benefit of our international neighbors—and they are neighbors of ours, for the world is very small—unless we use that power and that wealth we are failing to discharge the duties that we ought to feel as members of the international community."

The special interest of the meeting was concentrated on African missions, and Mr. Taft said that tho there was no one so imperialistic as to desire for this country a share in the Dark Continent, yet "because we are not going to enter and assume the powers of government does not furnish the slightest reason why we should not in every way possible encourage such movements as these under the auspices of other Governments, and under those Governments to aid the people in those Governments in the progress of Christian civilization." He goes on:

"We have the money here and we have the men and women who are willing to make the sacrifice, and those of us that sit back and go every two or three years to hear the stories of what has been done there by representatives of this country may well afford to be generous in helping out that movement.

"It is curious to see how the Almighty works his ways. Our interest in Africa for many years was the interest to suppress the slave trade for which we here, all of us, were responsible. New England got out of it a little earlier than the others, but we were all responsible for the encouragement of that trade, and now we have living with us 10,000,000 of people who are descended from the slaves that were taken by force, the negroes that were taken by force from that dark continent, taken with all the cruelties incident to the Middle Passage; and yet I think no one would say that the descendants of those people, those brought here, are not to be congratulated on the fact that their ancestors were brought here so that they have been able to enjoy the proximity to civilization, so that they are a hundred years in advance of their relatives in Africa. And yet they came here through the greed and the sin of those for whom we by reason of ancestry must be responsible. I think that is a very curious working out of the ways of God that no one can have anticipated.

"It is natural that the negroes of America who have had the advantage of an association in a Christian country with modern civilization, so that they are civilized and educated, should yet retain an intense interest in the development of the continent from which their ancestors came."

From this meeting President Taft went to the Bowery Mission and addrest the 300 men who, without knowing of his coming, happened to be seeking religion, or shelter from a howling storm, or both, at midnight of that date. He said to them, according to the New York *Herald's* account:

"Boys, I am just about as much surprized at being here as you are at seeing me. I received a note from the president of your mission, Dr. Louis Klopsch, asking me to come down and say a few words to you when I had finished at Carnegie Hall. I have known Dr. Klopsch and the good work he has been doing for some time. It's been my fortune in life to play the part of a figurehead. You know some men do the work and others play the part of figureheads, and nature has developed me in such a way that I make a pretty good figurehead. . . . I don't agree with your superintendent when he states that I deserve any special praise for coming down here from Carnegie Hall. As I look into your faces I can see that you are all citizens of the United States. (Hearty applause.) Some of you, to use a colloquialism, are 'down on your luck,' but you are striving with all your energies to get out of the rut.

"I am glad to be here with you, and if my presence will convince you that there is no great chasm between yourselves and those persons who temporarily appear to be better situated, I will feel that my visit has not been in vain. I am in sympathy with the movement to help you over the rough places along life's road at a time when everything, even the hand of God, seems to be turned against you. Don't get discouraged and don't give up the battle."

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A REPLY TO CRITICS OF THE CLERGY

IT is said that a certain well-known leader in ethical culture confest that he had dissuaded a youth from entering the ministry and so had saved him from "an effete profession." The fact is reported by "Clericus," who writes some "confessions of a second-rate sensitive preacher." He declares that of late he has found everywhere he has turned "criticism and contempt for the ministry as unmanly and effeminate." The preacher, he admits in *The Christian Work and Evangelist* (New York), is fully open to criticism, but his calling is still noble and manly. Without trying to hide matters, he brings forward some things that give a "seeming justification to the criticisms and aspersions." Thus:

"There are types of clergymen for which manly men can feel very little admiration. One finds occasionally the ladylike minister who writes his sermons on tinted note-paper and ties them in pink ribbon, whose chief delight is a five-o'clock tea, and who would faint at a political caucus. Nice little man, he is not of a very numerous class! I have mingled among ministers for twenty years and only once or twice have I seen his kind. There is, also, the petty ecclesiast. His is a little cloistered world, made stuffy with tradition. He entangles himself in millinery of worship or loses himself in the mechanism of his sect. When he emerges to public view he is usually astride some ancient hobby, or riding atilt in medieval intellectual armor. Such a figure in modern life justly invites hilarity. I have known, too, the worldly-minded minister, who shows his unattractive qualities in various ways. He may be a denominational politician, whose main occupation is seeking the high seats in the sanctuary. He may be the mercenary, who prizes a high salary more than godliness. He may be a clerical loafer, who wastes his time in public places and curries favor with the vulgar by retailing irreverent stories. He may be the preacher who disgusts all true men by the easy grace with which he mounts the fence in every moral conflict. Whatever his characteristics his worldly-mindedness wins deserved contempt. These and other types of men in the pulpit bring discredit to the ministry at large, but I protest against the shallow judgment which condemns a whole class of men because of a few undesirable specimens."

On the whole the parson's lot is neither an unhappy nor a useless one, and "Clericus" glories in the profession which he has chosen and gives this as his "main confession":

"I am glad that I am a minister, so glad that not all the freedom from vexation which any other calling may seem to offer could induce me to leave it. I cherish the ambition to keep at its work till the very end, to use my last breath in uttering its message, my last ounce of strength in its service. Not that my career has been unmixt with trial, defeat, and disappointment. Of these I have had my full share. More than most men, I have seen during eighteen years the hardships of the minister, and looking backward and about me there are many things I wish were different. I wish some pious people had done less to fill me with secret disgust and shame, that some deacons had not been so mean and cantankerous, that I myself had done and said fewer things that bring mortification and chagrin—and oh, how I wish I could own to-day that fine pair of high-stepping bays that have pranced before me in my dreams all these years. (I share with Henry Ward Beecher the opinion that if a minister does not like a good horse, his education has been sadly neglected!) In face of these things, however, I assert the essential joy of the minister. The very hardships themselves have been sources of satisfaction. My confessions are not of dark and sinister hue, revealing secret heresies and hidden discontent. They are the affirmations of a heart that has found its greatest gladness in the work to which it has given itself for life. I count my blessings, I do not parade my griefs—there are not enough of them to make a good showing."

His joy in preaching he describes in the following earnest and enthusiastic terms:

"I have heard men complain of the drudgery of preparing two sermons per week. It is an enormous task when you think of the sermon as an intellectual production. No man can hope to maintain so frequently a high order of output. There must often come occasions when, measured by literary and oratorical standards, he falls far below his best. It is not given him, as it is the poet, to choose to speak only when he is inspired. He must talk every week at stated times, and from the outside it seems intolerably tedious. But there is another viewpoint. The prime element in preaching is not intellectual achievement.

"A congregation is not assembled from Sabbath to Sabbath to hear a man read an essay or make an oratorical effort. If the preacher is wise he will labor to perfect himself in the art of oratory and master the rules of literary composition. 'If a man have anything to tell,' says Lowell, 'the world can not be expected to listen unless he have perfected himself in the best way of telling it.' The minister can not, of all men, afford to gain the reputation of intellectual slovenliness. Still, a man may be able to dazzle by brilliance and magnetize by oratory two congregations every Sunday and not be preaching. He is preaching only when he is telling in public what God has told him in secret. Out of his own experience he seeks to interpret the message of the Father to wayworn men and women, and, if he be a true man, that is never a tedious task. Perforce, he will repeat himself, he will produce not always new treasures, the old will be brought forth again and again, but he is untroubled, for he is not straining for artistic effect. He is a messenger with a supreme message and he is humbly glad to utter it in any form."

HIGH-PRICED EVANGELISM

THE large amounts of money that go to the support of evangelism suggest a feature that is causing disquietude even to Christians otherwise sympathetic. People in the world entirely detached from religious work have often sneered at some of the high-priced evangelists as engaged "for revenue only." Facts have disclosed a sufficient basis, in certain instances, for the sneer. But, confining the question entirely to the attitude to be taken by professing Christians, there is, says *The Standard* (Baptist, Chicago), "a serious question whether or not Christian people should lend themselves so largely to certain present-day methods." Too often, this journal thinks, "the individual undertaking of the early Church has given way to the modern religious syndicate, or to evangelism by proxy." The writer continues:

"When we hear the voice of Christ saying 'Go, make disciples,' we answer by hiring a substitute. And that is not the worst of it, bad as is the shirking of personal responsibility. The substitute may carry on his work in an unobjectionable manner, or he may conduct his operations in a way which awakens serious suspicions of his underlying motives. If we have decided that professional evangelism is the proper agency through which to discharge the obligation that rests upon the Church, then that professional evangelism must be such as to command the confidence of all men. Otherwise, whatever may be the seeming results in conversions, we shall be retarding instead of helping the progress of the kingdom of God.

"No evangelist can afford to rest under the suspicion that his controlling purpose is to enrich himself. That such suspicion exists concerning more than one man prominent in evangelistic endeavor is absolutely certain. This distrust is not confined to that class which is ever on the lookout for something to criticize, but is shared by a great body of fair-minded men and women. They do not wish to believe that men who assume to be filled with special anxiety on behalf of the unsaved and who are devoting all their time and energy to the work of 'soul-winning' are actuated by anything less than the most unselfish motives; but certain facts must be faced and explained, and the only rational explanation leaves some evangelists in a very unpleasant light."

There has appeared in some quarters criticism of Gipsy Smith, but *The Standard* hastens to say that he and his work do not come under these strictures. A statement is here made of Mr. Smith's financial arrangement, which is not generally known. We read:

"Mr. Smith has a stated and modest salary, paid him by the committee of the Free Church Council of Great Britain, under whose auspices he labors. One-half of the offerings received in his meetings goes to the local committee, and the other half to the committee of the Free Church Council. So far as Mr. Smith's personal income is concerned, it does not matter how much or how little the audiences may contribute."

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THE NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

AMONG the Nobel prize-winners for this year is the name of a woman, Selma Lagerlöf, of Sweden, who carries the honor for literature. She stands with Mme. Curie and the Baroness von Suttner to represent the position of woman in this international academy of fame. Mme. Curie won her laurels in the field of science, and Baroness von Suttner was rewarded for her devotion to the literature of peace. Miss Lagerlöf is a writer of romances, better known in Europe than in this country. The best-known of her works available in English is "Gösta Berling's Saga" and "Miracles of Antichrist," tho she has a considerable list of romances and travel sketches to her credit, appearing in various other European languages as well as Swedish. The following account of her appears in *The Outlook* (New York):

"The Swedish people have the greatest affection for her, regarding her as their prose-poet in the sense in which Schiller is the verse-poet of the German people, and her popularity is great throughout Scandinavia. Her work expresses in a rare degree the spirit and genius of Sweden, and has exerted a positive influence upon the national character. The prize was awarded, not to any single book, but in recognition of her substantial work as a writer. A Swedish critic, in reviewing her 'Christ Legends,' . . . says, 'She came to us in an age of psychological prying, and discovered the child in us.' At a time when the literature of the Continent partakes so largely of the introspective and morbid, Miss Lagerlöf has been an apostle of optimism, discerning in the characters in her stories the spark of divinity which redeems even crudity and sordid surroundings. In 'Gösta Berling's Saga' Miss Lagerlöf made her native province, Vermland, classical; and in her 'Jerusalem' she revealed to the people of Delecarlia the inner spirit of their own province. 'The Wonderful Adventures of Nils,' the immense popularity of which *The Outlook* has already reported, is a book which has endeared her to all Swedish children, to whom she is a kind of fairy godmother, lightening their school hours and their tasks with her delightful insight and humor. She is described as a modest and rather shy woman, of very attractive personality, living with her mother in a pretty, old-fashioned cottage in the suburbs of the city of Falun, surrounded by a flower-garden and an orchard. She has also an estate in Vermland, her native province, where most of her writing is done. She is an ardent lover of nature, with a passion for flowers and the ability to diffuse their perfume through her books."

The awards of the Nobel prize committee in other fields is thus commented on by the New York *Tribune:*

"Scarcely a year passes in which the men who are charged with the duty of executing Nobel's wish to reward achievements in science and literature and the promotion of international peace do not divide at least one of the prizes they bestow. This year, for the third time, the physics prize is divided. The honor and emolument (nearly $40,000) are shared by Mr. Marconi and Dr. Braun, of Strasburg, both of whom have been identified with the development of wireless telegraphy, tho the Italian, who has made England his home of late years, became famous for his work long before the German. There was an evident reluctance to give Mr. Marconi the exclusive credit of originating practical communication by means of Hertz waves. Yet Count Arco and Dr. Slaby, fellow countrymen of Professor Braun; Sir Oliver Lodge, a distinguished English authority in electrical matters, and at least two Americans—Messrs. Fessenden and Deforest—have apparently as good a claim to recognition as the Strasburg expert has. Dr. Braun's merits must have been presented with exceptional vigor by his admirers to secure this verdict.

"As to the propriety of the other awards there will be little dispute. Professor Oswald, from his temporary association with Columbia and Harvard universities, is perhaps better known in this country than some other German devotees of chemistry. Besides, he has engaged in literary pursuits, and it is not unlikely that the broad range of his activities had more or less influence at Stockholm. The Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, who divided the peace prize with M. Beernaert, former Minister of State of Belgium, is not only a permanent member of the Hague tribunal of arbitration, but has special claims on the esteem and good-will of Americans, having devoted much effort and money to the cultivation of friendly sentiments toward the United States among the French people. In further development of his aims he once visited this country and sought to induce universities, chambers of commerce, and leading manufacturers to send young men to France to study her institutions and products. Professor Kocher, of Berne,

SELMA LAGERLÖF,

Winner of the Nobel Literary Prize. "Her work expresses in a rare degree the spirit and genius of Sweden, and has exerted a positive influence upon the national character."

on whom has just been bestowed the prize for contributions to the science of medicine, has performed no single feat comparable with the discovery of the germ of malaria or the production of the antitoxin of diphtheria. However, so great is the variety of disorders on which he has written that he must be regarded as fully deserving the special reward he now receives."

A list of the prize-winners for the nine years that the awards have been made is printed in *The Independent*, from which we cite:

"PHYSICS: 1901, Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen (German); 1902, H. A. Lorentz (Dutch); 1902, P. Zeeman (Dutch); 1903, Henry Becquerel (French); 1903, Pierre Curie (French); 1903, Mme. Sklodowska Curie (Polish); 1904, Lord Rayleigh (English); 1905, Philipp von Lenard (German); 1906, Joseph J. Thomson (English); 1907, Albert A. Michelson (American); 1908, Gabriel Lippman (French); 1909, William Marconi (Italian); 1909, Ferdinand K. Braun (German).

"CHEMISTRY: 1901, Jakobus H. van't Hoff (Dutch); 1902, Emil Fischer (German); 1903, Svante Arrhenius (Swedish); 1904, Sir William Ramsay (English); 1905, Adolph von Baeyer (German); 1906, Henri Moissan (French), 1907, Edward Büchner (German); 1908, Ernest Rutherford (English); 1909, Wilhelm Ostwald (German).

"MEDICINE: 1901, Emil Behring (German); 1902, Ronald Ross (English); 1903, Niels R. Finsen (Danish); 1904, Ivan Petrovitch Pavlov (Russian); 1905, Robert Koch (German); 1906, Camille Golgi (Italian); 1906, Santiago Ramon y Cajal (Spanish); 1907, Charles Alphonse Laveran (French); 1908, Paul Ehrlich (German); 1908, Elie Metchnikoff (Russian); 1909, Emil Theodor Kocher (Swiss).

"LITERATURE: 1901, Armand Sully-Prudhomme (French); 1902, Theodor Mommsen (German); 1903, Björnstjerne Björnson

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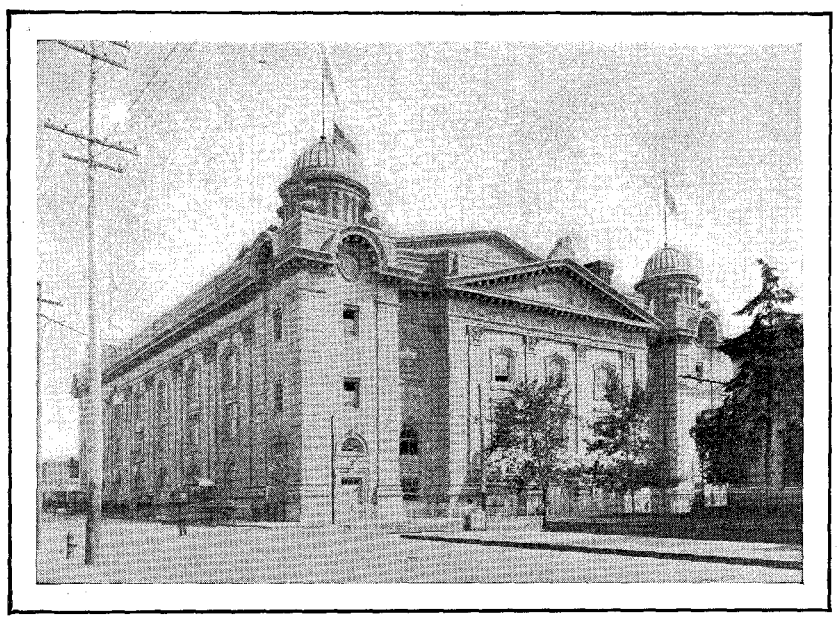
(Norwegian); 1904, Fréderic Mistral (French); 1904, José Echegaray (Spanish); 1905, Henry Sienkiewicz (Polish); 1906, Giosué Carducci (Italian); 1907, Rudyard Kipling (English); 1908, Rudolph Eucken (German); 1909, Selma Lagerlöf (Swedish).

"PEACE: 1901, Henri Dunant (Swiss); 1901, Fréderic Passy (French); 1902, Elie Ducommun (Swiss); 1902, Albert Gobat (Swiss); 1903, William R. Cremer (English); 1904, Institute of International Law (International); 1905, Bertha von Suttner (Austrian); 1906, Theodore Roosevelt (American); 1907, Louis Renault (French); 1907, Ernesto T. Moneta (Italian); 1908, K. F. Arnoldson (Swedish); 1908, M. F. Baier (Danish); 1909, Paul Henri Benjamin d'Estournelles de Constant (French); 1909, Auguste Beernaert (Belgian)."

DENVER'S MUNICIPAL THEATER

DENVER has taken the lead in establishing a municipal theater of the strictly public kind. Something similar may have already existed in Northampton, Mass., but that is a matter for the cities to contend over. The western idea is one of Mayor Robert W. Speer's, who believes that a municipality should provide amusement for its citizens, as well as sweep the streets. This was also the idea of some of the Roman emperors, but they had ulterior motives. Mayor Speer, according to *Collier's*, believes that the current prices for high-class productions is beyond the reach of the average citizen, so he has induced the city to go into the theatrical business on its own account. The Auditorium—the great building in which the National Democratic Convention of 1908 took place—has been converted into a playhouse, and a schedule has been booked for the season on one of the leading circuits of the country. The doors were opened November 1. No seat costs over $1 and in the opening week the house, it is said, held an average audience of 2,700, while the receipts approached $12,000. *Collier's* carries on the tale:

"Some years ago the citizens of Denver voted a $400,000 bond issue for the erection of an auditorium. Opponents of the scheme, as a final move in a desperate fight to block the sale of the bonds, brought an injunction suit, which was fought out in the State Supreme Court with a final victory for the city. In the years 1906 and 1907 a total of $190,000 was saved from the current revenues and added to the auditorium fund. The additional amount secured enabled Mayor Speer to have the plans for the building include a system of movable walls and a proscenium arch, by which the structure could be divided in half, one portion being arranged in such a way that with little work it could be fitted up as a thoroughly modern theater with a seating capacity of 3,000. The building was formally opened by the Democratic Convention last year.



THE DENVER AUDITORIUM.

Rather than let this big place stand empty save for National conventions and such like, Denver has made it serve for a municipal theater, the first in this country, it is said.

"Officially, the big steel and cement structure was designed for the usual purposes of a convention hall. As such it was used for the first year after its completion. Politicians and traction magnates and farmers and labor-unions held meetings and made speeches and passed resolutions within its ample walls. Fairs and automobile shows alternated with band concerts and campaign rallies. On one never-to-be-forgotten night last summer the 'lid' was lifted for a few brief hours, and a prize-fight was pulled off in the hall made historic by the nomination of a Presidential candidate.

"The contract calls for a season of twenty weeks, the city furnishing the playhouse and the Shuberts the attractions. Receipts and expenses are shared on a basis of 30 per cent. to the city and 70 per cent. to the theatrical concern. A special clause in the agreement provides that the contract may be nullified by the city without notice in the event of an immoral show being brought to Denver."

BARRIERS AGAINST BAD BOOKS

SUCH fiction as Wells' "Ann Veronica" and such personal recollections as Lady Cardigan's memoirs have aroused a storm of indignant protest in the English press. There has been renewed talk of a censorship of books and various other devices for curtailing the license of literature, but where to begin or how has been a puzzle. The ball is opened by the circulating libraries —Mudie's, W. H. Smith & Sons, Boots' Booklovers, The Times' Book Club, Day's, and Cawthorne & Hutt—who report to their patrons the results of a meeting of their managers in a statement of their proposed action concerning "the circulation by the libraries of books which are regarded as transgressing the dictates of good taste in subject or treatment." In a statement they say to the publishers:

"Much undeserved adverse criticism has fallen upon the libraries, who, in their endeavors to avoid giving offense, have repeatedly called in such books from circulation, and, in consequence, have suffered considerable loss. In order to protect our interests, and also, as far as possible, to satisfy the wishes of our clients, we have determined in future that we will not place in circulation any book which, by reason of the personally scandalous, libelous, immoral, or otherwise disagreeable nature of its contents, is, in our opinion, likely to prove offensive to any considerable section of our subscribers. We have, therefore, decided to request that in future you will submit to us copies of all novels, and any books about the character of which there can possibly be any question, at least one clear week before the date of publication. Unless time is given to us to read the books before they are published, it is impossible for us to avoid that annoyance to our subscribers for which we, and not the publishers, are generally held responsible.

"We trust that you will not consider that the action we are taking in this matter is in any sense an attempt on our part to become censors, and we hope that you will cooperate with us by informing us that you consent to our request."

Following this announcement the council of the Publishers' Association exprest its "sympathetic approval of the aim of the Circulating Libraries' Association" and avowed its desire to give "cordial support to their efforts in that direction." It also proposed that representatives of the Authors' Society should be invited to meet the Publishers' and Libraries' Associations in order to arrange some feasible scheme under which the thing may be done. "Such a combination would be of great weight and authority," observes *The Evening Standard and St. James's Gazette* (London), "and probably quite capable of effectively relegating to obscurity some of those

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specimens of 'literature' we have been seeing so much of lately." The Manchester *Guardian*, however, sees a danger lurking in the proposition, which it points out in this way:

"One may frankly recognize that there is at the present moment a plague of books—novels, some of them, but mostly those rehashes of bygone scandals which have now such a vogue—which are not only bad as literature, but which make their appeal solely to the appetite for nastiness. Any measures which can be justly taken to crush this poisonous undergrowth that is choking the production of better work are very welcome. But tho circulating libraries have obviously the right to control, as they think fit, the issue of books to their subscribers, their existence does imply an informal contract with their clients to give what is asked for. It would be an evil day for literature if at the very moment when the stage has a chance of freeing itself from an irksome censorship the liberty of the printing-press should find itself again liable to serious infringement, and the action of the libraries looks a little too like the censorship over again, even tho they disclaim any such intention.

"There are many novels and 'memoirs' which no one wishes to see published, but unfortunately there have been cases where very notable works dealing in a spirit of free criticism with contemporary morality have been refused circulation through the libraries, to the great damage of the authors' reputation and the needless annoyance of the thoughtful public which keeps pace with contemporary writing by this means. The remedy lies not with the circulating library but with the two sets of people who stand on either side of it—the publishers and the reading public.

"If the publishers will cease to produce matter which panders simply to the nauseating taste for sordidness and lubricity no problem would arise. More than that, if the public which reads through the circulating library would do its reading with discrimination and more knowledge and forethought, no complaints could occur. The evil is often solely in the vicious habit which asks simply for something to tickle the palate and then complains because it has been given what it asked for. Most of all the remedy lies with the Public Prosecutor. A few convictions and heavy penalties for the publication of palpably noxious stuff would do more to cleanse our literature from this disgrace than all this arbitrary action, however well-meaning it may be, of the library managers."

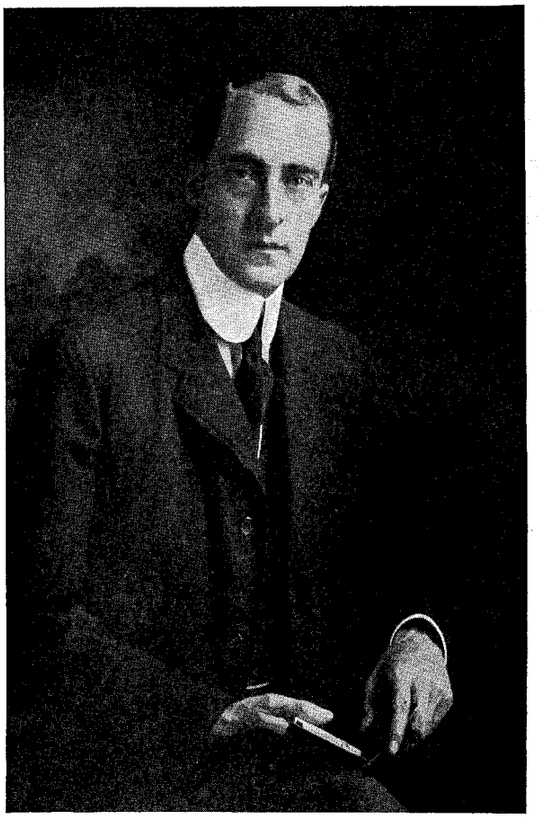
Mr. Edmund Gosse, in a letter to the London *Times*, speaks of the proposed plan as "unheard-of tyranny" involving "a serious danger to literary liberty," for the power that the circulating libraries assume "places the very existence of a book of unexampled or unwelcome character at the mercy of a small group of men, of whose fitness for so important a charge the public can know nothing." He says further:

"Had this Draconian law been passed fifty years ago, is there the slightest chance that Darwin's 'Origin of Species' would have been 'circulated or sold'? The Association will hasten to reply that they do not dream of attacking Darwin. No; but who is to guard against their attack on some one who may be the Darwin of to-morrow? Is no book which promotes the advance of thought in a vigorous and startling manner evermore to be 'circulated or sold' in this country, if its contents are judged 'disagreeable' by three prudish, orthodox, or timid librarians?

"To no one do I yield in my desire that public reading should be clean, wholesome, and of good report. But I would far rather see a few idle and scandalous volumes enjoy an ephemeral existence than that the profession of literature should resign its ancient freedom. If the proposal of the Circulating Libraries' Association is tamely accepted by the publishers, there must be an end to all liberty of publication. I will take leave to shelter myself behind the noble fervor of Milton, who, resisting what answered to the Circulating Libraries' Association of his time,—namely, the Commissioners assembled in Star Chamber for the prevention of scandalous publications—replied, 'Suppose we could expel sin by this means; look, how much we thus expel of sin, so much we expel of virtue.' For the sake of checking the sale of one scurrilous volume of memoirs we endanger the liberties which our forefathers so painfully secured for us. I hope the publishers will not be so poor-spirited as to quail before the 'sainted Inquisition' of the Circulating Libraries."

THE NEW THEATER'S MAN OF ALL WORK

THE man at the helm of the New Theater seems to come as near solving the problem of omnipresence in his little world as it is humanly possible. It is not only that he knows all that is going on in every part of the complicated establishment, and insists, at least until things shake down, that centralization is necessary to make everything fit, but he has contrived various ingenious devices so that he hears what is going on in places more or less remote from the general manager's office. Just now the personality of Mr. Winthrop Ames, the New Theater's manager, is interesting



WINTHROP AMES,
Who won his first spurs in the Harvard "Hasty Pudding," and now directs the multiple activities of the New Theater.

a good many newspaper-readers; and contributions to this interest are appearing in a variety of journals. The New York *Times* gives a picture of Mr. Ames in his sanctum, and a description of a device that is probably unique:

"To begin with, he has a spacious room, simple, rather bare, in fact. One or two things mark it out from thousands of similar rooms, the 'act-call' on the wall, which tells him which act is beginning downstairs, and a tiny model of a bit of scenery held for correction of some sort. A curious object is attached to his desk, an acoustic apparatus which enables him to hear what is being said on the stage without his stirring from his desk. This comes into use not only for the actual play but for rehearsals and what not. Does the heroine need to throw more soul into the pathetic bit in the second act? At the exact moment Mr. Ames grasps his receiver and marks what she accomplishes. Was the shouting of the supers perfunctory and uninspiring at the first rehearsal? Let them not think they are escaping observation merely because the director is nowhere about the theater. His keen ear follows every huzza from up aloft. At the other side of the desk stands the telephone, connecting through his secretary's room with every part of the theater as well as with an outside world clamoring for this, that, and the other piece of information, which the director has at his tongue's end."

Mr. Ames, we are told, is general stage-director, watching the

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progress of a piece in rehearsal from every possible point of vantage "from the front," while the so-called stage-director engineers the play from the near neighborhood of the actors. He is also business manager, attending to the engaging of actors, the signing of contracts for the spring tour, or the direction of the large force of mechanicians. "If any mortal fulfils the apostolic command relative to being all things to all men, Mr. Ames does it. With the literary director he toys with literary directing, just as he electrified the electrician, so to speak, and talked to the doorman as if he had been born and brought up a janitor."

From an article in *Harper's Weekly* written by Mr. William Inglis we get some facts concerning his previous career. He was born at North Easton, Mass., in 1873. From the beginning of his studies he "had a strong liking for literature and the drama, and he was a fairly hard worker during his course at Harvard University whence he was graduated in the class of 1895." The greatest success of Hasty Pudding is said to be the extravaganza "Proserpina" written and produced by him. Mr. Inglis gives this account of his career in the world:

"During 1896 young Ames pursued a post-graduate course in the history of the drama and allied subjects, and for three years after that he was engaged in editing and publishing an architectural magazine. In 1903 he went abroad to study the art of acting and of dramatic production. He spent twelve months in the best theaters of Germany, France, and England. With characteristic thoroughness he mastered every detail in each. He could pass an examination to-day on the construction, equipment, plan, scope, and policy of every theater he visited. When he returned from the trip he brought elaborate drawings and memoranda he had prepared about the sixty-six principal theaters of Europe. These studies have been of the utmost aid in designing and equipping the New Theater of to-day. . . . . .

"Upon his return from Europe some four years ago, Mr. Ames, in company with Lorin F. Deland, leased the Castle Square Theater in Boston, and there began the working out of a plan which in a smaller way might be called a foreshadowing of the present program of the New Theater. In the Castle Square they engaged a stock company of competent actors, not necessarily artists of burning genius, but intelligent, experienced, able performers with minds sufficiently elastic to enable them to study new rôles with frequency. There was a change of bill every week, all the year round, and the Castle Square Theater was a going concern for four years of this policy, satisfactory artistically, and paying its own expenses, even tho it did not show a big financial profit.

"But this was not enough for the ambitious young manager with his trunks full of data and drawings. He wanted to create a theater from the foundation up, to use in its installation and management the best ideas he had gathered from the sixty-six principal theaters of Europe. Therefore he bought a plot of ground in Boston and was in the midst of the drawing of plans for his enterprise when, in September, 1908, the founders of the New Theater persuaded him to bring his experience, his ideas, and his tireless enthusiasm into the service of their cause. It is difficult to see how success can possibly evade this leader and the company of able men he has gathered about him."

In talking with Mr. Ames the writer of this article secured the following statement of what stands for the manager's ideal of the new enterprise:

"The New Theater should try to combine wisely the offices of experimentation and standardization. Such an institution should not exploit fads. One thing it should never do—it should never play a bad play. I don't mean by this a play that fails to please the public—to always select successful plays seems beyond the powers of fallible human judgment. But to be done by the New Theater a play should have something more than the mere elements of popularity—some literary or artistic quality. The unusual productions and the standard productions, without ever reaching faddism, should be produced side by side from the very inception of the institution. This can be done, I believe, owing to the elasticity of the repertoire system, which, tho extensive in operation, permits the performing of many types of plays, lengthening the runs of those which appeal to a wider public, without crowding out the others which appeal to a smaller number of people."

ESPERANTO'S SUCCESSOR

IF Esperanto has served its term as a nine days' wonder it is only natural that some substitute should appear about this time to take its place. In the case of the new aspirant, Esperanto itself seems to have furnished the basis or at least allowed the new "international" to mount upon its shoulders, for, says Prof. Otto Jespersen, this year's exchange professor at Columbia University, "this language may be described as a purified Esperanto." He gives some further account of it in *Science* (Boston), from which we quote:

"Most of the words are formed from international roots, *i.e.*, roots found in most European languages, so that they are known without study by every fairly educated man. It is not a new language to learn; *it is the quintessence of European languages.* But it is easier beyond comparison than any of the latter, on account of its absolute simplicity and regularity; *no unnecessary rules, no exceptions.* It is learned by reading and when you can read it you can also write it; when you can write it you can speak it. And it has been proved by experience that the people from the most different countries pronounce it so nearly alike as to make differences trifling and by no means troublesome.

"To put it briefly, the *Linguo internaciona* is a simplified and improved Esperanto, and it can be *understood without previous study*, and it is therefore destined to become the final international language."

A specimen of it is given below:

Eventis—tala esas la rakonto quan on audas ofte en Ameriko exter Chikago—ke Chikagano, qua vivis nek plu nek min bone kam multi quin me konocas, quik pos la morto vekis a nuva vivo en la altra mondo. Pos malmulta momenti il renkontris samurbano, qua guidis il dum sa unesma promeno en sa nuva cirkaji e montris ad il omno vidinda. Pos kelka hori la jus adveninto dicis:

"Yes, omno co esas ne malprizinda, ed omnakaze ol esas dekople plu bona kam in Chikago. Sed me ne povas negar, ke me expectis ulo ankore plu bona kam co en la cielo."

Sa akompananto astonata rigardis il grand-okule e krieskis:

"Quo tu dicas? Kad tu kredas ke ca loko esas la cielo? Ni du esas en la—inferno, kad tu ne savis ol?"

La sprito tute amerikana di ca anekdoto esos prizata da irgu qua vivis mem mallonga tempo en Chikago.

It happened—such is the story often heard in America outside of Chicago—that a man from Chicago, who lived no better and no worse than many whom I know, soon after his death woke up to new life in the other world. After a few moments he met a man from his own city, who took him around for his first walk in his new surroundings and who showed him all there was to be seen. After a few hours the newly arrived said:

"Yes, all this is not to be underrated, and at any rate, it is ten times better than Chicago. But I can't deny that I expected something still better in heaven."

His companion's eyes grew larger as he looked at him in astonishment; as he exclaimed:

"What do you say? Do you think this place is heaven? Both of us are in—the other place, didn't you know it?"

The distinctly American humor of this anecdote will be appreciated by whoever has lived, even if only for a very short time, in Chicago.

The same writer attempts in *Frem's Aarbog* (Copenhagen) some statement in justification of the new tongue. "It has been said that thoughts pay no customs duties," he observes, "but this erroneous proverb expresses an ideal rather than real facts." He thinks the time spent on learning foreign languages and the money that goes in "translation costs" will be saved. "We want to talk and to correspond with foreigners, and learn all we can from them, from their books, and their institutions, but at every step we are hindered by the barriers of national languages. . . . Could we not have one tongue which would be sufficient for our relations with any nation outside our own?"

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There are 112 parts of the Cadillac "Thirty"

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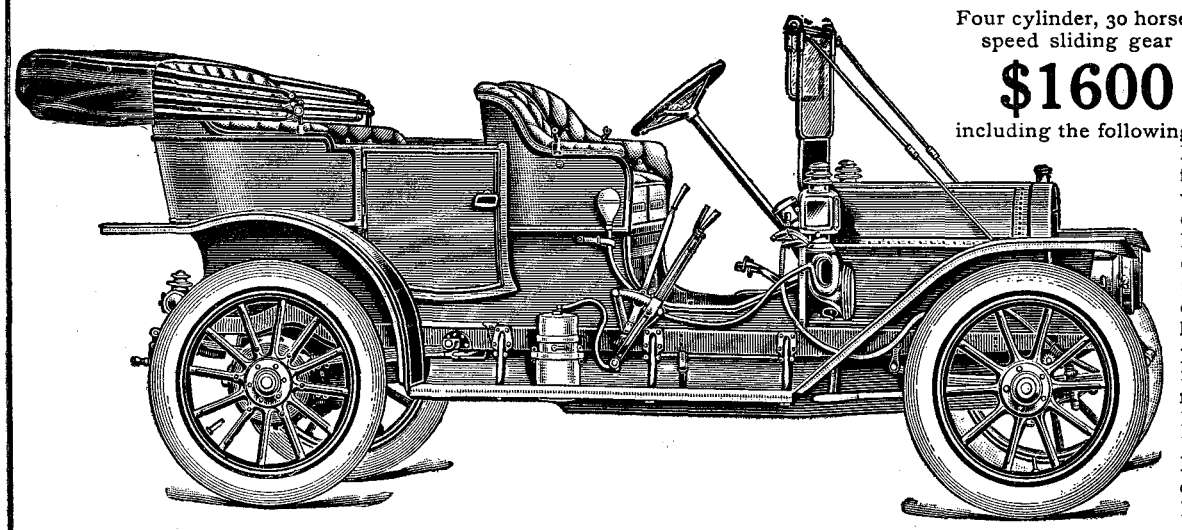

Four cylinder, 30 horse power. Three speed sliding gear transmission

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We borrowed this dance
From the days of the past
And the wonder grows as
we dance it—
How they kept up the pace
And the strength of the race
without

Uneeda Biscuit

The Soda Cracker that makes the Nation strong.

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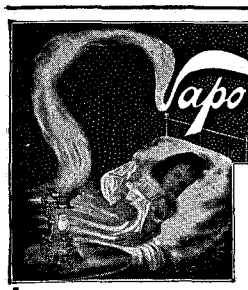

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Summer and Sunshine all Winter in Your Home

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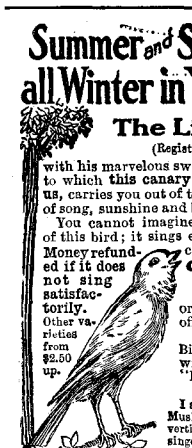
(Registered U. S. Patent No. 50853)



with his marvelous sweetness and ever-changing melody to which **this canary has been especially educated by us**, carries you out of the cold bleak winter into a world of song, sunshine and blossoms.

You cannot imagine the wonderful singing qualities of this bird; it sings entirely different from any other canary, sings by artificial light too.

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Largest Bird and Pet Animal House in the World. Est. 1888.

CURRENT POETRY

This song is printed in *Lippincott's Magazine*. It is a well-known theme, woven into a few plaintive lines.

The Farm-Wife

BY REGINALD WRIGHT KAUFFMAN

Where ends the road across the hill?
I do not know—I do not know;
But all day long and all the night
I long to go—I long to go!

It runs so straight beneath the sun,
So white beneath the moon;
It calls me from my work and dreams,
And I must answer—soon.

I bolt my door, I do my tasks,
I kiss my goodman's cheek—
Yet I can not hear my baby's laugh
For what the Road would speak.

Where ends the road? I only know
Here, from the pasture-bars,
It is familiar to the sun
And mistress to the stars.

The following "Song from Prison," which we quote from *The Westminster Gazette* (London), is strangely like a sequel to the one printed above. It would seem that the Farm-Wife has followed her longing and has found the "end of the road."

Song from Prison

BY HALLIWELL SUTCLIFFE

I thought the town was paved with gold,
I sneered at country ways.
And now I hear the sheep in fold
Go bleating roundelays.
Oh, God o' mercy, how the streets smell foul and will not rest!
The clover-fields were sweet and clean when I went country-drest.

I thought the town was trim and wise,
That folk, up North, were slow.
And now I see the dawnlights rise
On summer hills aglow.
Oh, God o' mercy, how the days are bitter-lone and long!
The daisied days of Yorkshire were never dead to song.

I thought the town was paved with gold,
My homeland seemed too quiet,
And now the lark's note rises bold
Above the dull street's riot.
Oh, God o' mercy, how the lanes are primrose-sweet this spring!
Dreams change this gold o' London for coin of truer ring.

Here is a perfect bit of verse appearing in a recent volume of poems by Thomas Walsh. (The Prison Ships and other Poems. Sherman, French & Company.)

The Epitaph of a Butterfly

BY THOMAS WALSH

As one by one she saw the leaves of red
And yellow wafted slowly to the ground,
Hope buoyed her heavy wings of flame and said
That 'mong them still some comrade might be found.

But when o'er all the autumn hills a pall
Of gold was drawn before her glazing eye,
Yon mirrored pool made ready for her fall
A grave as lovely as her native sky.

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PERSONAL GLIMPSES

BRYCE'S MEMORIES OF DARWIN

AMONG the famous men whose natal year was 1809, and whose centenaries have occasioned a pouring-forth of anecdote and reminiscence, Mr. James Bryce notes "four men likely to be remembered among the English-speaking races as long as English is spoken—two statesmen, Abraham Lincoln and William E. Gladstone; one poet, Alfred Tennyson; and one man of science, Charles Darwin." The British Ambassador goes on to observe, in his article on Darwin in *Harper's Magazine* (December), that while "the last named of these was the one whose influence spread most widely over the whole of civilized mankind during his lifetime, and continues to be felt with undiminished force to-day," he was "the one among these four who was least known personally." Altho his books and his theories were being discust all over the world, his personality remained unfamiliar even to his own countrymen. His life was uneventful, or, as Mr. Bryce puts it, it had in it only one event, his voyage on the exploring-ship *Beagle*. Pursuing the conventional classical education at Shrewsbury, his home town, and later at Edinburgh and Cambridge, intending to take orders in the Church of England, he began to manifest an interest in birds and insects, and became known to Professor Henslow, an accomplished botanist and geologist, and other scientific men in Cambridge. To continue from Mr. Bryce's narrative:

He had not quite dropt the notion of taking orders when Professor Henslow told him that Captain Fitzroy, who was to command the *Beagle* on the voyage already referred to, was looking out for a naturalist to accompany the expedition. Henslow remembered his young friend, then twenty-two years of age. Darwin jumped at the proposal. Captain Fitzroy accepted him, tho at first deterred by the shape of Darwin's nose, which he thought indicated a want of force of character!

The voyage lasted from 1831 till 1836. It was Darwin's education, and furnished the basis for his famous theory. The book in which he recorded his observations, and which established his reputation as a scientific student, is a delightful book, which any one, however scanty his knowledge of science, may read with pleasure even to-day, when we know so much more about the places and the subjects of which it treats. Never did five years yield a richer harvest to any man than those years to Darwin and to the world. But while they gave knowledge and brought fame, they took away health. He had been a strong man when he embarked. But the almost constant seasickness from which he suffered when the little vessel was tossing on the waves so told upon him that when he landed his nervous system was permanently weakened, and he was never thereafter the same man physically, never capable of such continuous hard mental work. In 1839 he married Miss Wedgwood, and in 1842, being in fairly easy circumstances, he bought the small estate of Down, nearly twenty miles from London, and settled himself there for the rest of his life, giving to his scientific observations and reflections all the time that his physical weakness permitted. He was tended with the most loving care by his wife and helped in his investigations by his sons, some of whom have themselves achieved high distinction in different branches of science.

It was there, at Down, that I saw him not long before his death. . . . . .

He was nearly six feet high, but did not look his height, having in later years contracted a slight stoop. Every one has seen engravings or photographs of him. They give a very good idea of his face, for its features were well marked; and in elderly men the expression seems to become a part of the features. The form of the head, high and dome-shaped, was characteristic, and it showed all the more because nearly bare in front. A long and snow-white beard gave him a venerable aspect. The nose, which had

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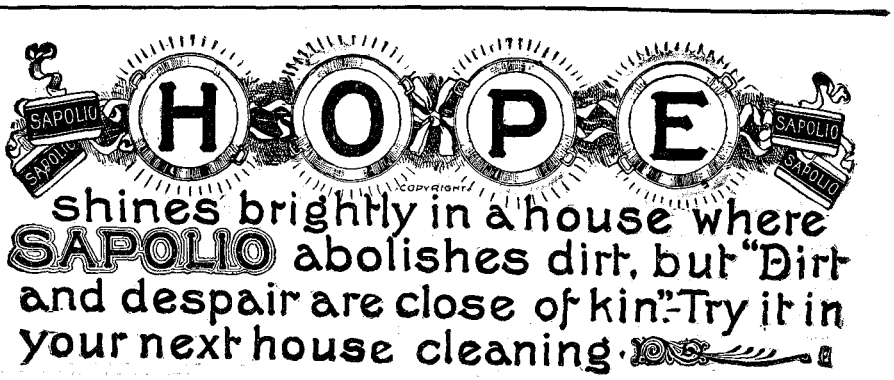

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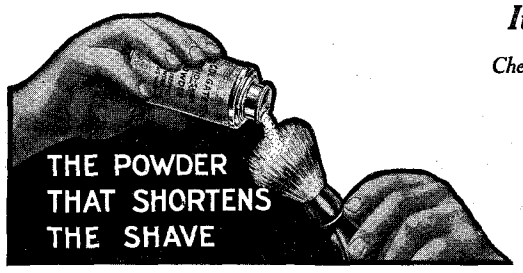

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nearly caused him to lose the voyage on the *Beagle*, was rather blunt, more like that of Socrates than that of Julius Cæsar. But the feature which struck one most was the projecting brow with its bushy eyebrows, and deep beneath it the large gray-blue eyes with their clear and steady look. It was an alert look, as of one accustomed to observe keenly, yet it was also calm and reflective. There was a pleasant smile which came and passed readily, but the chief impression made by the face was that of tranquil, patient thoughtfulness, as of one whose mind had long been accustomed to fix itself upon serious problems. With this there was also a benignity and serenity which reassured the visitor, and put him, however deep his reverence, at his ease in the great man's presence. One could not feel constrained or timorous, because his manner was perfectly simple and natural, with nothing to indicate any consciousness of exceptional powers. . . . . .

The weakness of his health reduced his writing time to little more than three hours each day, sometimes, indeed, compelling an intermission of all work. Accordingly his interviews with visitors had to be short. . . . . .

After some twenty or twenty-five minutes of conversation, one of his sons came in and carried him to lie down and rest. Talking fatigued him, and it had become necessary to save every moment of strength that he possest for his scientific studies. Each hour was apportioned, whether to exercise or to rest. Exercise was taken by pacing alone, in the long cloak familiar to us from his pictures, along a circular walk which ran round the grounds adjoining the house. Rest and distraction from scientific thinking were found in listening to the reading aloud of novels. This gave him constant pleasure, provided that the story ended happily. A tragic ending gave him positive pain. . . . . .

Darwin, while regretting his comparative slowness of apprehension, thought that in some ways it had benefited him. He has recorded a singular result of the exclusive devotion he had given to his studies in natural history, which at the same time shows how much besides a naturalist nature made him.

"Up to the age of thirty or beyond it poetry of many kinds gave me great pleasure, and even as a schoolboy I took intense delight in Shakespeare, especially in the historical plays. Formerly pictures gave me considerable and music very great delight. But now for many years I can not endure to read a line of poetry: I have tried lately to read Shakespeare, and found it so intolerably dull that it nauseated me. I have also almost lost my taste for pictures or music. I retain some taste for fine scenery, but it does not cause me the exquisite delight which it formerly did. . . . My mind seems to have become a kind of a machine for grinding general laws out of large collections of facts, but why this should have caused the atrophy of that part of the brain alone on which the higher tastes depend I can not conceive. A man with a mind more highly organized or better constituted than mine would not, I suppose, have thus suffered. . . . The loss of these tastes is a loss of happiness, and may possibly be injurious to the intellect, and more probably to the moral character, by enfeebling the emotional part of our nature."

Their loss, if they were so lost, had not injured Darwin's character or enfeebled his emotions, for his character was one of the most upright, as well as unselfish and amiable, that were ever revealed by letters, or shone out in the conduct of life through manhood into age. He was a kind and helpful neighbor to the humble folk who lived round him at Down; loyal and affectionate to the friends of his youth, always enjoying a friend's successes at least as much as he did his own. The one thing which roused him to a sort of passion was his hatred of cruelty or oppression. He had conceived, on his visit to Brazil during the voyage of the *Beagle*, a loathing for slavery and for the ill-treatment of a less-advanced race by a higher or more vigorous one. No one recognized more fully the enormous difference between the various families of mankind: *vide* his account of the Fuegians. But he had always a kind word for the negroes, and felt so strongly for them that when, in 1866, efforts were being made by J. S. Mill, John Bright, and others to bring Governor Eyre to trial for his conduct at the time of the Jamaica troubles that had occurred shortly before, Darwin felt bound, to the surprize of most of his friends, to join the committee formed to prosecute Eyre. He

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scarcely ever took part in public affairs, and to join in this prosecution was a very unpopular thing to do; but popularity was the last thing he would think of.

It is pleasant to remember the noble and benign aspect of the old man as he appeared at seventy-three. His face worthily exprest the candor and gentleness and serenity of his character. Long-continued physical suffering which, tho seldom acute, was never absent for any long period, had given no touch of gloom or moroseness to his manners. He must sometimes have felt weary of life; and it may indeed be gathered from his biography that he did so feel. But strength of character made him patient; and his intensely affectionate nature, resting upon the love of his family and his friends, had enabled him to retain his geniality and even a sort of cheerful contentment.

DR. COOK'S POLAR CHRISTMASES

IN an "account of certain events and experiences in the quest of the Pole," written for *The Circle* (December), Dr. Frederick A. Cook says that neither Christmas 1907, nor Christmas 1908, "nor what went between" will ever be forgotten by him. For April 21, 1908, found the explorer, according to his story, at the goal of all his hopes. Tho not at the Pole at either Christmas, Dr. Cook was "near enough to obtain a full appreciation of polar conditions." In October, 1907, when the Arctic night set in, the party was at Annotook. Preparations were made for the winter and for the coming campaign. Of this Christmas, celebrated at the seventy-eighth parallel, we are told:

Eating was the chief form of entertainment. Let no one suppose this indicates a low state of mind. No greater compliment can be paid in the far north than by eating extra rations in honor of an occasion. We invited three natives to join us at dinner, and one of them, unconsciously following the custom of the day—for these Eskimos have no knowledge of Christmas—brought us twenty duck eggs, which he threw upon the floor; they made a noise like so many stones falling. If the Eskimo regards the date at all, it is as Midnight of the Long Night, for immediately afterward the first brief gleam of returning light heartens him once more. Francke served up quite a banquet, consisting of roast Arctic hare, crystallized potatoes, green peas, rice and milk, peaches and cake—the latter made by the aid of the eider-duck eggs. Our guests were Puadluna, Kudla, and Koolootungwah. We let the spirit of the day govern us, doing less, if any, work, tho the only gift which I recall was a copy of my Antarctic book for Francke. The temperature was minus 34 degrees below zero, the moon three-quarters full.

And so passed that Christmas Day. A little over two months later, on February 19, 1908, we began our attack on the Pole. Our journey took us through a valley lying between Grinnell Land north and Ellesmere Land south, but there were none of the allurements of southern valleys. The temperature ranged from 63 degrees to 83 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. The receding walls of this shallow valley glistened in frosty draperies and gradually softened in a deepening purple blur that merged with the lighter blue of the morning sky. As we advanced day after day into the bleak unknown, leaving far behind all altitude, the uttermost horizon would become a bank of indigo rising vaporously to meet a pale-purple sky, or it would present a wall of orange, or, again, and most frequently, an unlifting cloud of smokiness. . . . . .

Above the eighty-second parallel human life is devoid of pleasure and of mental or spiritual exhilaration. Life consists of incessant effort not to succumb to death. An icy wind blows always. We worked without ceasing, during work hours, seven days in each week. There was no luncheon, there was no diversion, there was only an endless round of dash, stop, chop, lift, push—dash, stop, chop, lift, push, and on to the next obstacle, perhaps twenty feet, perhaps five hundred. At the end of each day, excepting the few just before we reached the Pole, and on the entire return trip, when we used the silk tent, we built our snow igloo, shutting us from the starry world and from the deadly tempest. This took us an hour. Once within we disrobed and slept,

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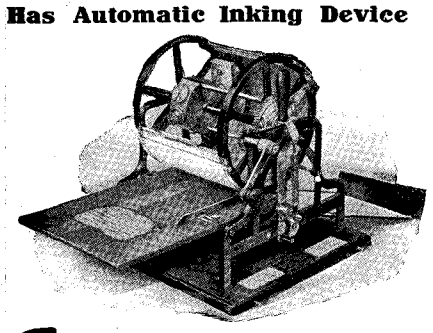

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one man getting into his sleeping-bag at a time for lack of room, but my two Eskimos used one bag between them. Somehow we would get off our frozen boots and pants and thrust that portion of the body into the sleeping-bag, a piece of brick-like pemmican between the teeth all the time. Tea was an hour in the making, and by its help we dislodged the ice from our head coverings, removed fur coat and inner shirt, and then the bag closed over an unconscious form—so unconscious that more than once death by icequake or hurricane was barely escaped. Sometimes, if sleep did not immediately come, the grateful warmth of new contact with my own skin thawed my frozen blood, and I would lie basking in dreams of home and the days that lay below the southern horizon.

In the morning, with heads thrust from the bags, we reveled in a breakfast of two cups of tea, a biscuit as big as a watch, a fragment of frozen meat, and a half-pound of pemmican. Morning and night each man drank about one and a half quarts of water, but none between. Breakfast over, the frozen garments were donned, an opening kicked in the side of the igloo, and we were again plunging onward into the maddening influence of the monotonous glitter.

But above every other feeling, excepting that of loneliness, was that of coldness. There was no escape from it. The very stars were points of down-hanging icicles. Cold and not heat became the terror of eternal punishment. The rays of the sun smote through closed eyelids the unbearable pain, but their heat could scarcely be felt. It was mercifully impossible to perspire, until toward the last when physical weakness reached the stage where the body would not contain its moisture, but oozed it from every pore, to be instantly turned to frost. Before that the slightly warmer portions of the body—the waist-line, wrists, and below the knee, where foxtails were worn for greater protection—were marked by rings of snow. The chronic squint of the eyes reduced the pupils to pinholes, and the steady blast of icy particles forced bitter drops that congealed as soon as freed. The vapor of the breath dropt into my beard and rose to the eyelashes, which became solid. It is to prevent this torture that the Eskimos pull all facial hair out by the roots, tho they grow their hair long so as to cover the face with it at times of extreme need. But our breath even floated before us and became a crystal mask, extending to the foxtails worn about the hood to shield the face.

The unremitting agony of the daily routine was frequently increased tenfold by the terrifying storms that sweep the icy plains. Blinding snow, cutting frost, and a blast that seems to pierce through every pore are the accompaniments. Even the dogs in their weatherproof pelts howl and rebel, and in more than one instance we dug them from the drift that hid them, a mass held completely by bonds of ice. The temperature rises during such storms, but falls swiftly afterward.

On April 21, 1908, as stated in my dispatches we reached the Pole.

Two days later began the journey back to civilization. I can scarcely say if my elation had entirely passed, but I know my ambition, my interest, my strength had. And if ever these were needed they were upon this race with the Arctic Night.

The Night won. Christmas Day, 1908, found us far from our destination, in the unmerriest circumstances civilized man can well imagine.

I can not conceive of a more miserable Christmas. Certainly it was the most wretched I had ever passed, and I hope never to duplicate it. Our hut, mostly underground and composed of stones and bones and waste ends, was uncomfortable in the extreme. We were wholly without civilized food, depending upon musk-ox and bear meat, and this we obtained by use of primitive weapons, our ammunition being exhausted.

Perhaps the strangest emotion I felt that day was a longing to go abroad in the land with a gun over my shoulder. We sorely needed exercise, but for the ten days before Christmas—as, also, after—we dared not venture out into the total darkness. We were in the locality of dangerous beasts, and our hut was passed and repassed at all times by bears. Our adventures during that winter were many and intense. So we spent Christmas, 1908, like cave-men, lying within our earth-cell, in the not unpleasant light of musk-ox fat fed to a moss wick.

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THE SPICE OF LIFE

Nicaragua.

"What are the cables flashing for?" the correspondent cried;
"Diplomacy, diplomacy," Philander K. replied.
"What makes you send the ships to sea?" the correspondent cried;
"I'm merely going to call their bluff," Philander K. replied.
For they're stirring up the devil just north of Panama;
When they start to getting haughty they go a bit too far;
It's time these kid republics received a gentle jar,
So we're going to spank Zelaya in the morning.

"What makes the jingoes smile with glee?" the correspondent cried;
"They hope there'll be a bloody war," Philander K. replied.
"But do you really mean to fight?" the correspondent cried.
"Some one has got to fight or crawl," Philander K. replied.
The *Buffalo* is headed south from Pinchelinque Bay,
The *Bennington's* at Greytown, a ship's near Managua.
The *Prairie's* left League island—there'll be the deuce to pay
When we start to spank Zelaya in the morning.

"What makes the politicians smile?" the correspondent cried;
"They see new crops of heroes," Philander K. replied.
"Then there'll be more Rough Riders?" the correspondent cried;
"Not on your life! Not on your life!" Philander K. replied.
In seven years of Roosevelt we surely got our fill,
We're living in the heritage he handed down to Bill;
So, if we've got to have a war there'll be no San Juan Hill
When we start to spank Zelaya in the morning.
—*Springfield Republican.*

This Year.—THE DOMINIE—"What kind of Christmas do you expect to have this year?"

LITTLE SOCIETY BOY—"That depends on whether the Judge gives me into the custody of mama or papa."—*Brooklyn Life.*

Misunderstandings.—The budget has given rise to a number of good stories about Mr. Lloyd George, a particularly good one concerning a recent banquet at which the Chancelor of the Exchequer was a guest.

Sitting next to him was a young lady, who listened reverently to every word that fell from her hero's lips.

"Ah," she ventured at last, "you have suffered a great deal in your life from being misunderstood, have you not?"

"Yes," Mr. Lloyd George is reported to have replied, "I have suffered from being misunderstood; but I haven't suffered half as much as I would have if I had been understood."—*M. A. P.*

The Battery.—There had again been trouble in the O'Hagan household, and O'Hagan had the word of sympathy when he next met his neighbor.

"'Tis not much of a team ye make, ye and yer woife," said O'Hogan.

"An' that's where ye're wrong," said O'Hagan. "'Tis the foine team we make entirely. Me woife pitches an' Oi catches."—*Puck.*

Unromantic.—"Anything romantic about their wedding?"

"Not a thing. She can cook, and he has a job."—*Kansas City Journal.*

A Much-Married Lady.—"I want a license to marry the best girl in the world," said the young man.

"Sure," commented the clerk, "that makes thirteen hundred licenses for that girl this season."—*Puck.*

The Christmas Shopper.—"I want a box of cigars for a fair, slim gentleman, please."—*Punch.*

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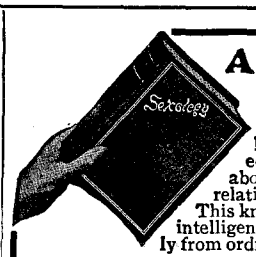

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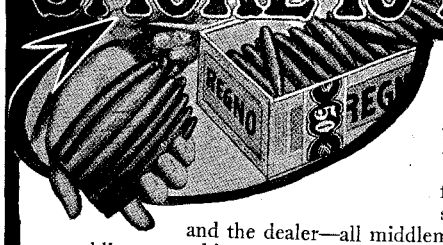

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The dealers' 10-cent straight is the manufacturer's 4-cent cigar—the difference represents three profits—the jobber, his salesman and the dealer—all middlemen who add to the price without adding one whit to the quality. So you see the price I ask for my cigars is logically correct. I am simply offering to save you three unnecessary profits that you now pay.

I call this **10-cent** value the **REGNO,** and into it I put the very finest Havana filler—not Havana seed or American Havana, mind you, but genuine Havana Leaf, grown and cured on the Island of Cuba. Also I use the finest quality imported Sumatra wrapper. My cigars are made by skilled, experienced hands. They draw freely—burn evenly and there is not the tiniest variation in the quality. My factory has been running continuously since 1843, long enough to show up every needless expense—every cost-increasing leak. I am located in a small town where expenses are reduced to a minimum—where wages are normal and workmen are happy, contented property-owners. I make just enough cigars each day to fill my orders, so the cigars are certain to be fresh.

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Mollycoddles.—FIRST CHAUFFEUR—"War is absurdly sentimental."

SECOND CHAUFFEUR—"Yes, they actually go back and bury the dead."—*Chicago Tribune.*

At the Maneuvers.—OFFICER OF THE DAY—"Repeat your orders."

SENTRY—"On no account to wake the Sergeant, sir!"—*Punch.*

The Hero.—"Sir, I wish to make your daughter my wife!"

The old man hesitated. "Hadn't you better see her mother first?" he asked, gently, after thinking a moment.

"I've seen her mother, and it doesn't make any difference—I'm willing to take the chances!" exclaimed the youth, with all the ardor of honest love. —*Puck.*

Earnings.—"Father, to-day I earned money for the first time in my life."

"Excellent, my son! How did you do it?"

"I lost a bet."

"Lost a bet?"

"Yes father, and refused to pay it."—*Fliegende Blaetter.*

His Status.—"Well, my little man," inquired a visitor pleasantly, "who are you?"

"I'm the baby's brother!" was the ingenuous reply. —*The Truth Seeker.*

Nothing New.—"Congratulations! I hear one of your daughters is engaged. Which one is it?"

"Get out! It's only Bessie again!"—*Meggendorfer Blaetter.*

CURRENT EVENTS

Foreign

December 10.—In a speech at Albert Hall, London, Premier Asquith commits the Liberal party to a policy of limited Home Rule for Ireland.

December 12.—Blériot, the French aviator, is seriously injured in a flight at Constantinople.

December 16.—King Leopold II. of Belgium dies in Brussels.

President Zelaya of Nicaragua sends his resignation to the Nicaraguan Congress.

Domestic

WASHINGTON

December 10.—A report on the evils and the extent of the "white slave" traffic was presented to Congress by the United States Immigration Commission.

December 13.—President Taft nominates Horace H. Lurton for Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Senator Rayner of Maryland arraigns President Zelaya, declaring that he should be brought to the United States and tried for murder.

December 13.—A report telling of filthy and immoral conditions in the steerage of transatlantic steamers is submitted to the Senate.

December 16.—The report of the United States Immigration Commission notes in the children of immigrants marked changes from the physical characteristics of their parents, possibly giving rise to a distinct American type.

GENERAL

December 13.—President Taft makes an address at the celebration of the Methodist African Missions diamond jubilee in New York and later visits a Bowery mission.

December 14.—A council of labor leaders at Pittsburg decide to make an organized war upon the United States Steel Corporation, largely because of the latter's "open shop" policy.

December 15.—Twelve persons are killed and twenty-six injured in a wreck on the Southern Railroad near Greensboro, N. C.

December 16.—John Raines, Republican leader in the New York State Senate, dies at his home in Canandaigua, N. Y.

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THE LEXICOGRAPHER'S EASY CHAIR

In this column, to decide questions concerning the correct use of words, the Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary is consulted as arbiter.

☞ *Inquirers desiring prompt answers will be accommodated on prepaying postage.*

"S. J. H.," Paterson, N. J.—"In an association of five persons, how many members would constitute a quorum? Could two form the requisite number?"

The term "quorum" is defined as "a fixt number of members of any body, society, etc., whose presence is necessary for the proper transaction of business." Unless definitely specified, a quorum usually consists of a majority of the members, which, in the particular case mentioned, would be three; but this custom does not preclude the possibility of ruling that a smaller number than a majority can constitute a quorum; hence, two members could form a quorum if this had previously been agreed upon.

"N. G.," Nekoosa, Wis.—"Kindly tell me who became Vice-President when Theodore Roosevelt fulfilled President McKinley's unexpired term, and how was it arranged?"

The office of Vice-President was vacant for the three years in which Theodore Roosevelt acted in the capacity of President in the place of McKinley. A President pro tem. of the Senate was elected by that body to act in the absence of the Vice-President, as this comprises one of the chief duties of the Vice-President. Other than this there was no action taken to fill the vacant post of Vice-President. There is a prescribed order of succession to the offices of President of the United States, when a vacancy occurs therein, but in this line of succession the office of Vice-President is the only one that is filled by *election*, those following holding their offices by right of appointment. Thus it will be seen that the post of Vice-President would remain vacant under such circumstances, but that vacancies in the following offices caused by a succession to the Presidency would be filled by a new appointment.

"S. C. J."—"Please state the correct manner of using the title 'Reverend.' Is it correct to say 'Rev. Blank'?"

This title should always have the definite article "the" prefixt, as the phrase is adjectival, and strict propriety demands its presence. Either of the two forms, "The Reverend Thomas Blank," or, "The Reverend Mr. Blank," is correct. (The abbreviation "Rev." is also permissible.) The form "Rev. Blank" would not be used by persons of culture, and is not a sanctioned form of address.

"G. A. S.," Bay City, Mich.—"Is it correct to use in writing the abbreviations 'don't,' 'isn't,' etc.? When is it permissible to use them?"

That these forms must receive recognition in the conversational field, there is no doubt. If care is used to combine the proper forms with the singular or the plural subject ("We don't," "He doesn't"), they are permissible in conversation, but they are not literary forms and are not admitted to that polite society, unless in the guise of dialect and representing colloquial speech.

"R. L. C.," Guantanamo, Cuba.—"Why do dictionaries give 'lbs.' as the abbreviation of 'pounds'? As the 'lb.' for the singular stands for 'libra,' it would seem that the abbreviation for the plural should be 'llb.'"

The plural abbreviation "llb." would certainly seem to be more logical, if the matter could be reasoned out by analogy; for the custom prevailed at one time of doubling the principal consonant of a word to indicate the plural number in the abbreviation. For instance, there is "f.," *folio*, and "ff.," *folios;* also, "seq.," *the following*, and "seqq.," *in the following places;* etc. But the instance which you mention, the abbreviation "lbs.," does not follow analogy, and the Lexicographer has no definite information on the matter.

A Compensation.—"I am afraid, madam," said a gentleman who was looking for apartments, "that the house is too near the station to be pleasant."

"It is a little noisy," assented the landlady, "but from the front windows one has such a fine view of people who miss the trains."—*Stray Stories.*

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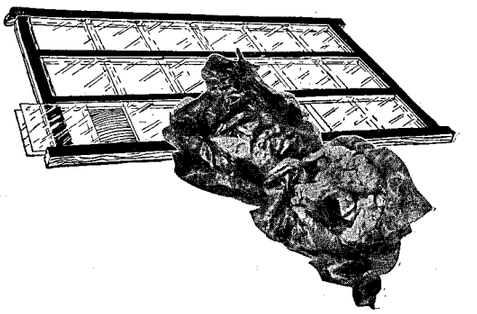

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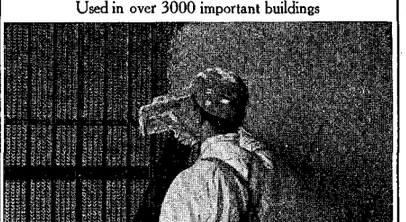

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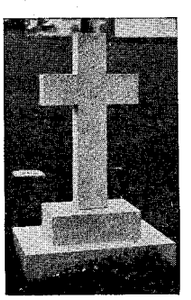

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INVESTMENTS AND FINANCE

THE BOND MARKET AND COMMODITY PRICES

Signs are seen of slight improvement in the bond market. The more hopeful believe that a revival of interest will occur soon. At the same time, the investing public in general continues to ignore low-priced railroad issues. The actual absorption in November made a total of only $75,000,000, which was small considering that the amount of bonds authorized reached some hundreds of millions.

The Banker's Magazine for December in its investment department, conducted by Franklin Escher, says there is only one cause for this stagnant condition, which is the state of the money market, money rates being high. Bond dealers in every part of the country are anxiously waiting to see how long high rates will last. So long as time money is at five per cent., extensive liquidation of bonds must be inevitable. One of the best-known Wall Street houses recently issued a circular on the subject of falling prices, in which it said:

"This tendency toward lower prices in bonds bearing a fixt rate of interest, where the security of the principal is unquestioned, has been brought about by a number of economic conditions, among them being the higher prices for practically all commodities, a higher scale of wages, and the generally increased extravagance, which amounts almost to profligacy at the present time, all of which seems to have more than offset the effect of the increased production of gold, the result being that money is expected to earn a higher yield. . . . Five-per-cent. bonds, and even six-per-cent. issues, are now purchased by the conservative investor who a few years ago would have looked with suspicion upon a bond yielding over 4½ per cent."

Taking this paragraph for a text in its financial columns, the New York *Evening Post* says:

"If high cost of commodities is largely owing, in the first place, to increased production of gold, which tends to cheapen purchasing power of money, then the high cost of living and doing business would apparently be an effect of the increased gold output, and not an offset to any other effect.

"Yet while one critic may hold that the effect of increased gold production is to lower the price of money, and another that its effect is to cause interest rates to rise, both may be right. Increased production of gold, in so far as it swells bank reserve, ought to increase the supply of banking credit and thus reduce the market price of "money," but at the same time it would tend to increase interest rates on capital in its fixt forms.

"That effect might be produced in two ways. The lender of capital for a term of years, anticipating a depreciation in the value of money during the life of the loan, might insist upon a higher rate of interest to protect him against the depreciation likely to take place in the value of his money while it is in the borrower's use. That is imputing to the lender, however, a degree of imagination he seldom exhibits. In another and more obvious way, speculation and extravagance, fomented by the accessibility of banking credit and capital in its liquid forms, might conceivably so advance the cost of living that the investor would be obliged to seek a higher yield on his savings.

"The investment period which brought the high bond prices of 1900 was preceded and accompanied by ideal conditions, not since repeated, and it was then that the railroad corporations and other borrowers made their best terms with lenders. A comparison of the yield of fixt interest-bearing securities of the present time with the yield of such securities in 1900 seems to show that interest rates have tended very sensibly to rise, but a comparison of the yield of securities of the present time with that of securities of the first grade twenty or thirty years ago does not by any means show the same thing.

"In 1900, railroad companies of the best credit arranged to refund six-, seven-, and eight-per-cent. bonds with 3½-per-cent. and four-per-cent. bonds. The consolidated mortgage on the main stem and branches of the Louisville & Nashville, which matured in 1898, bore seven per cent. interest; in 1897, when the Chicago & Northwestern created its 3½-per-cent. mortgage, the bulk of its outstanding bonds bore interest at six, seven, and eight per cent. The increasing production of gold was a phenomenon of deep scientific interest in that period, too. Possibly other things entered largely into the making of a wonderful investment market. There had been several years of hard work, low prices, and patient saving. Capital had wonderfully accumulated. Herein enters an important psychological fact, which is that people tend to save more in lean times than in good times, and it is saving that creates capital for investment."

THE RISE IN COMMODITIES

No topic continues to be more familiar in commercial and domestic circles than the rise in prices of commodities. Speaking collectively, they still continue in their upward movement, so that, as *Bradstreet's* remarks, the subject "looms large on the economic horizon." Employers as well as employees are much concerned by it. Only the producer really enjoys it. Manufacturers and railway interests are doubly embarrassed by it, since there now come to them demands for higher wages, predicted on increase in the cost of living. So important has become this subject that President Taft commented upon it in his recent message. It is believed that never before, in a time of peace, has a president referred to this subject in a state paper.

On December 1 *Bradstreet's* index number stood at $9.1262, which is within a small fraction of one per cent. of the highest record ever made since statistics on this subject began to be compiled. A record still higher is that for March 1, 1907, when the number stood at 9.1293. During the present year there has been since March an advance of eleven per cent. Other comparisons are made as follows:

"Comparison with December 1, 1908, brings out an increase of 11.1 per cent., while contrast with the same date in 1907 shows a gain of seven per cent.; but the advance over December 1, 1906, is not so marked, being only 2.5 per cent. However, the present index number exceeds that set up on December 1, 1905, by 9.9 per cent.; it outranks December 1, $1904, to the extent of 13.2 per cent.; it eclipses the figures registered on the like date in 1903 by 16.4 per cent.; it surpasses December 1, 1902, by twelve per cent.; it runs above December 1, 1901, by eighteen per cent., and it overtops the figures as of December 1, 1900, by 18.5 per cent. Getting to another point of vantage, we

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find that the present index number—$9.1262—is eighteen per cent. higher than it was on June 1, 1908, that being the low-water mark of the recent depression, and incidentally the current index number is sixty per cent. higher than the very lowest ever recorded, viz., on July 1, 1896, when the number was $5.7019."

Proceeding to set the matter in more familiar terms, the writer says that a man, going to a wholesale market-place on December 1 to purchase one pound of each of ninety-six articles would have paid for them about $9.12, while on March 1 of this year he could have purchased these for about 91 cents less. At the low level in June, 1908, the goods could have been bought for $1.40 less. Getting back to the low level reached in July, 1896, the difference would have amounted to $3.42, but that was a period of abnormal depression, and *Bradstreet's* believes "no one desires to see a return to it."

An idea of what the increase means may be stated in still other terms: In the last eighteen months, butter has advanced in price forty per cent.; cheese thirty per cent.; eggs one hundred per cent., coffee and meat fifteen per cent., flour twenty per cent. While employment for labor has become almost universal, with wages at the normal rate, working-people, because of the high cost of living, are saving little. As a rule, says a writer for one of the Wall Street houses, "every dollar goes for expenses," and consequently working-people are not happy. Their replies to inquiries as to how matters are with them are apt to be that, while these may be good times they only realize them in that they "are working as hard as ever just for a living."

MUNICIPAL BOND ISSUES

Simultaneously with the large issues of stocks and bonds by railway and other corporations comes intelligence that many American cities have recently issued large amounts of bonds. With the exception of one year, the total municipal issues for October were larger than ever were reported for any previous October. They make an aggregate of $15,627,909. At the same time, there were short-time loans which amounted to $18,346,000 and the $12,000,000 offered by New York City as general fund bonds were also additional to the $15,627,000. For *The Financial Chronicle* has been compiled a table, showing first the totals for October for a series of years, and then the aggregate for the first ten months of those years, as follows:

1909	$15,627,909	$284,227,707
1908	14,078,829	257,319,046
1907	9,793,358	209,516,322
1906	14,819,277	167,971,622
1905	7,915,496	148,037,223
1904	10,209,995	208,221,652
1903	12,196,885	123,042,878
1902	5,488,424	123,167,279
1901	9,779,197	109,103,198
1900	16,421,185	113,615,626
1899	9,314,854	104,341,291
1898	4,906,607	88,057,166
1897	6,872,203	113,259,756
1896	4,688,463	60,917,879
1895	6,697,012	98,950,928
1894	8,685,435	99,140,271
1893	11,839,373	52,813,939
1892	11,766,420	75,350,254

NEW YORK CITY BOND SALES

On December 9 bids were opened by Controller Metz of New York for an issue of $12,500,050 gold bonds. There were one hundred and fourteen bids, the total of money represented by them amounting to considerably more than three times the issue—$43,840,000. One trust

Security and Liberal Income Guaranteed

Customary Security. Each Water Works or Irrigation Bond we offer is secured by a mortgage on a particular plant or enterprise, the real value of the property being much greater than its bonded indebtedness. Such a mortgage is the only security usually offered on bonds of this class issued by a reputable company, and is generally considered sufficient.

Are Additionally Guaranteed. In addition to such mortgages, however, the bonds we offer bear the absolute guarantee of the American Water Works & Guarantee Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa., capital and surplus, $4,500,000, as to prompt payment of both principal and interest. These bonds are *doubly* secured.

No delay in payment of Principal or Interest. This company controls and operates forty successful water works plants and four prosperous irrigation enterprises in different parts of the United States. It guarantees only the securities of properties it investigates and constructs with its own engineers, and controls and operates with its own organization. During its twenty-seven years of business *there has never been a single day's delay in the payment of either principal or interest on any bond it has guaranteed.*

Strength of Guarantee Constantly Increasing. With each new issue the additional assets acquired by this constructing, operating, and guaranteeing company are always greater than the contingent liability assumed. The strength of its guarantee continually increases as its business extends.

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5—The recommendation of a house of our character, with facilities and experience, is invaluable to purchasers of these securities.

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company sought the entire issue. The average price secured by the city was a little under 100.50, which is under the predictions, these having ranged from 100.50 to 100.85. Prices at sales are usually governed by those at which outstanding similar city bonds can be bought in the open market. An example may be found in the four-per-cents. of 1959, which were sold last June and are now quoted at about 100.75. In the New York *Evening Post* is presented a comparison of the result of the sale of December 9, with those which have taken place since November, 1903. The comparison presents the amounts offered for the bonds, the average price received, and the percentages which the bonds yield on the investment. The table is given below. Readers should first understand that all the city issues between April 24, 1905, and August 12, 1907, inclusive, were of four-per-cent. bonds, all prior of 3½-per-cent. The September sale of 1907 and that of February, 1908, were of 4½-per-cent. securities; that of November 23 last of fours:

1909—	Amount.	Av'ge price.	Per cent. on investment.
December 10...	$12,500,000	100.34	3.98
June 8.....	40,000,000	100.71	3.98
March 2.....	10,000,000	101.57	3.93
1908—			
November 23..	12,500,000	102.385	3.89
February 14...	50,000,000	104	4.30
1907—			
September 10..	40,000,000	102.063	4.39
August 12.....	15,000,000	100	3.998
June 28.....	29,000,000	100.094	3.994
February 1....	30,000,000	100.39	3.98
1906—			
December 14...	9,800,000	101.42	3.93
November 2...	4,500,000	101.89	3.925
July 25.....	11,029,100	100.97	3.94
February 15...	20,000,000	108.052	3.65
1905—			
April 24.....	25,000,000	100.712	3.499
November 23...	12,500,000	100.017	3.475
1904—			
January 20	10,000,000	100.23	3.49
March 24	3,000,000	100.10	3.495
May 3.....	37,000,000	100.13@100.94	3.468
November 23..	25,000,000	102.41	3.40
1903—			
January 22....	7,500,000	104.56	3.31
March 5.....	2,500,000	104.29	3.32
April 9.....	2,500,000	103.28	3.36
May 12.....	3,000,000	104.33	3.32
July 22.....	3,500,000	102	3.41
November 19...	7,500,000	101.05	3.45

STOCK ISSUES BY BIG ROADS

Since the announcement that new and large stock issues would be made by the Pennsylvania, New Haven, and Canadian Pacific roads, it has been learned that the New York Central will also issue new stock, the amount being $44,658,000, and that the Chicago and North Western will issue $30,000,000 of new common. In the case of the New York Central, the stock is offered for subscription at par to old holders of record on December 10, the rights of subscription being to the extent of twenty-five-per-cent. of holdings. Of the sum raised, about $21,000,000 will be used to retire a similar amount of five-per-cent. notes which mature in February, the remaining issues, amounting to nearly $22,700,000 being limited for improvements, extensions, etc., the amount used for new equipment being limited to $9,000,000. *Bradstreet's*, in commenting on the details of this offer, remarks that the action of this road had been fully anticipated in Wall Street, which in a measure had discounted it by forcing a decline in the market value of existing shares.

Bradstreet's says of the North Western issue that the announcement of it was "unexpected." In this case also present holders of stock are permitted to subscribe for the new issue to the extent of twenty-five per cent. of their holdings. With the North Western there was at once a recession in the market value of the stock after this announcement was made; but the sober, second thought of Wall Street was that, "in view of the high grade and great earning-power of the North Western system, the expending of that amount of additional capital upon its lines could be considered as a profitable operation." The funds thus raised will be devoted mainly, if not entirely, to the improvement of existing lines and the construction of new branches in agricultural districts of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota.

The decision of these five great railway systems to raise money for improvements and extension through stock issues, rather than through bonds, reflects unmistakably the great improvement that has taken place in business conditions. Bonds constitute a fixt charge. If the interest is not paid, the bondholders may foreclose. Stock issues, however, are dependent for dividends on what net earnings the road may secure. Dividends may be increased or decreased according as the earnings warrant, and, if necessary, they may be passed. *Bradstreet's* remarks, however, that it is reasonable to ask how much further this habit of issuing stock instead of bonds can be extended, "without some congestion of securities of this kind being the result."

DISBURSEMENTS IN JANUARY

On the 1st and 15th of January, 1910, the dividends and interest paid out in this country on stocks and bonds will amount to a sum estimated by J. Frank Howell of New York, at $225,000,000, which is the largest in the history of the country. This total exceeds by more than $25,000,000 the total for one year ago, and by about $5,000,000 the total for two years ago. The large increase over last year reflects the great improvement that has taken place in general business, this improvement having enabled corporations to restore or increase dividends on their stocks. In the matter of bonds, there has been some increase also, owing to the volume of issues outstanding being larger now than it was a year ago. Mr. Howell notes that the improvement in trade has extended to almost every commercial commodity, except copper, but he anticipates an improvement in that market ere long.

The payments by railroads to shareholders in January will amount to something more than $72,000,000, which is an increase of about $49,000,000 over the amount paid in the same month last year.

Industrial companies will pay out in dividends about $61,000,000. Meanwhile, the interest payments will aggregate over $92,000,000, of which $62,000,000 will be paid on railroad bonds, and $30,000,000 on those of other corporations.

Mr. Howell has compiled further statistics of interest. He says that, at the end of this year, more than $1,500,000,000 will have been paid out to stockholders and bondholders, as dividends and interest, this being the largest sum in the history of the country. Last year the total reached only $1,245,000,000, while in 1907 the payments aggregated only about $1,326,000,000. These startling totals have led Mr.

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Howell to note further that the supply of money in the United States is only a little more than the total of dividend and interest payments for the year 1909, that supply being $1,649,000,000. In case these interest and dividend payments had to be paid out on a single day in the year, "all the floating supply of money would have to be utilized." The payments, however, are not made once a year, but once a month.

MR. HAWLEY'S PURCHASES

In an article on what are known as the Hawley group of railroads, printed in *The Financial World*, the writer remarks that an analysis of these roads leads to an inference that, instead of one big system eventually rising from them, "there will be a number." It is declared that the progress of Mr. Hawley in the railroad field has "a portentous meaning." Having been chosen as a leader by "the most powerful group of financiers in Wall Street," he may be regarded as "the figure under whom a complete transformation in the grouping of railroads will be effected." Meanwhile, the evolution of his plans "will be watched with the most intense interest."

The roads now classed as of the Hawley group are described as stretching from the Virginia seaboard to the trans-Mississippi territory in Kansas, then zigzagging down to New Orleans and Galveston, with a detached portion penetrating to Minnesota and crossing Iowa. When, however, these roads are mapped out and placed before one on a table, and then are studied with a view to obtaining some idea of what gigantic system is under way, "they tell very little." Mr. Hawley is now supposed to control directly 12,000 miles of road as follows:

	Miles
Chesapeake & Ohio	1,897
St. Louis & San Francisco	5,251
Chicago & Alton	998
Toledo, St. Louis & Western	690
Missouri, Kansas & Texas	3,072
Iowa Central & Minn. & St. L	1,028
Total Mileage	12,936

The writer says that some of these roads cross themselves in different places, while others run parallel. Owing to these facts they could never become the basis of one great railroad system; moreover, that would be contrary to the purposes of the Sherman Law. Nor does there always seem to be any great benefit possible from an interchange of traffic between some of them. Even could they be merged without legal interference, they "would not make a homogeneous system," "for the routings would be more or less indirect and the hauls more or less costly." The situation is described as one of "deep mystery."

The question is asked whether it be not possible that Mr. Hawley "is acting as the broker of purchasable railroads for other interests who do not care to reveal their plans." Such interests might have reasoned that they could obtain the properties easier and cheaper through Mr. Hawley than if they were to seek them directly. The writer recalls that it was Mr. Hawley who sold the Colorado Southern to James J. Hill at a good profit. Until he acquired the Chesapeake & Ohio, Colorado Southern was "the best earner he had had."

6% Irrigation Bonds

Secured by a Thousand Farms

The security back of Irrigation bonds is first liens on farm lands — sometimes a thousand farms.

These liens are given by individual land-owners in payment for water rights. They are paid in annual installments. The land which secures them is generally worth four times the lien.

The trustee may hold a thousand such liens given by a thousand farmers on a thousand separate farms—as security for the bonds as a whole.

The farms under lien are among the most fertile farms in America. And the perpetual water right, which the lien secures, multiplies the land's value. The first crop is usually more than sufficient to pay the whole lien.

The land is not subject to crop failures, because the farmer controls his water supply. The earnings are large and sure.

A bond issue based on a thousand such liens is, in our estimation, the safest sort of security.

Additional Security

Irrigation bonds are additionally secured by a first mortgage on all the property owned by the Irrigation Company. The investment in this property is often twice the bond issue.

Thus, in addition to the many farm liens, we have this corporation and all of its property pledged to the fulfillment of all obligations.

Some Irrigation bonds are issued, like School bonds, by organized districts. Such bonds form a tax lien on all the taxable property of the community.

Some Irrigation bonds are issued under the "Carey Act," where the State supervises the project.

73 Issues Sold

During the past 15 years we have sold 73 separate issues of Drainage and Irrigation bonds, all secured by farm liens. Every obligation under every bond has been promptly met.

These bonds have become, with most of our customers, the most popular bonds that we handle. Now, we have first pick of these projects, because of our dominant place in this field.

Our own engineers and attorneys investigate every feature. An officer of our Company constantly resides in the irrigated sections, watching the projects we finance. Thus, our customers secure only the very cream of Irrigation bonds.

Ideal Investments

Such Irrigation bonds as we handle are regarded as ideal investments. The security approaches the absolute.

They are serial bonds, running from two to twelve years, so one may obtain any desired maturity. The denominations are $100, $500 and $1,000, so one may invest either little or much.

The demand for irrigated land is so great, and the projects so profitable, that the bonds pay six per cent. That is a higher rate than can now be obtained on any large class of equal securities.

We have written a book on Irrigation bonds, based on our vast experience. Every investor, small or large, should read it. The book is free. Cut out this coupon, as a reminder to write for it.

January Investments

For January investors we have on hand 100 varieties of bonds. They include Municipal, Public Utility, Water Power, Corporation and Irrigation Bonds. Please ask for our list. Cut out this reminder so you won't forget.

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(6)

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Irrigation Bonds

¶ Ten years ago the average investor was satisfied if he obtained a return of from 3½ to 4 per cent. on his money, and yet today there is a growing and insistent demand for investment securities yielding from 5 to 6 per cent.

¶ The reason is plain when we consider that in the last decade the cost of living has increased nearly 50 per cent.—in other words, where a four per cent. interest return was once sufficient, a six per cent. yield is now necessary.

¶ We believe that an income of from five and one-half to six per cent. may be obtained with safety from selected issues of Irrigation Bonds, and recommend them to those desiring to reinvest their money so as to obtain a better interest return. This class of bonds is especially well adapted to the requirements of the average private investor, as they usually mature serially, so that a long or short time investment may be made as desired, and they are obtainable in denominations of $100, $500 and $1,000.

¶ We have prepared a booklet on Irrigation Bonds as an Investment and would be pleased to send it to banks and individual investors on request.

Send for Booklet No. L. 6

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BANKERS
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Booklet For Investors

Write for a copy of our **Booklet No. 456.** It explains the function of the investment banker, the different forms of bonds, sinking funds, "and interest" prices, payment and delivery of bonds, management of corporations, duties of directors, earnings, declaration of dividends, and the relationship between income and safety of principal.

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Write for a copy of our **Circular No. 457** describing a carefully selected list of sound investment bonds yielding approximately **4½ to 5½%** The bonds are secured upon properties of demonstrated value and earning power, and are suitable investments for the most discriminating buyers.

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We execute commission orders upon the New York Stock Exchange. We allow interest on daily balances, subject to draft, or on money placed with us pending its investment.

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GAINS IN BRITISH WEALTH

Conditions in Great Britain which gave rise to the recent budget, the chief source of contention in the coming Parliamentary election, form an engrossing topic in the affairs of that country. It is often asserted that Great Britain instead of retrograding commercially is still becoming year by year a richer nation. Investigations of statistics by competent hands make the fact clear. The Lord Chancellor, in the House of Lords, recently declared that "there is a vast increase of wealth visible in the income tax, in the death duties, in the inordinate and wasteful luxuries we see around us in the home." He declared further that when tried by every test one may like, this increase will be found to have "extended to the great majority of the people."

The subject is taken up for discussion in *The Economist*, which finds in the records evidence "of increasing prosperity and an industrial advance, contrasting most favorably with that of the other leading nations of the world." *The Economist's* article is based on a Blue Book, recently issued by the Board of Trade, which really constitutes a national stock-taking. It shows, says *The Economist*, "the inherent soundness of our commercial system," and that Great Britain has not fallen behind in international competition. Nor have her resources failed to be used to the best advantage. What is especially to the point as affecting the budget, are the figures as to internal wealth. These show that "British backs are broad enough to bear the burden of social reform." The time has therefore come, says the writer, when the nation should recognize that the social evils now clamoring for relief have been "accelerated, and in some cases entirely created, by the rapid industrial reorganization of the nineteenth century." It has become a matter of national conscience "to see that, out of the wealth which commerce has brought to England, provision should be made for those who have suffered while the nation as a whole has prospered." The writer confines himself, in the statistics presented, to results affecting the period beginning in 1885 and extending to 1908. The first table, as given below, shows the growth in foreign trade:

	1885-9	1890-4	1895-9	1900-4	1905-8
TRADE PER CAPITA.	£	£	£	£	£
Imports (net)—					
All articles	8 14 2	9 7 1	9 16 5	11 2 2	11 16 8
Manufactures only	1 16 6	1 19 8	2 7 2	2 14 1	2 16 11
Exports (domestic)—					
All articles.....	6 3 8	6 2 11	5 18 11	6 14 9	8 7 11
Manufactures only.....	5 7 7	5 4 5	4 19 10	5 7 1	6 14 4
EXPORTS OF LEADING ARTICLES.	Mill. £	Mill. £	Mill. £	Mill. £	Mill. £
Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	24.3	23.6	25.2	33.3	45.1
Machinery	12.1	14.8	17.3	19.5	28.2
Cotton yarn and manufactures.....	69.9	68.4	65.9	74.7	99.2
Woolens	20.1	17.4	16.5	15.8	20.4

These figures are commended "most warmly" to the attention of fiscal reformers, especially the figures relating to exports of manufactures, which, during the last three five-year periods rose from £4 19s 10d per capita to £5 7s 1d per capita in 1900-04, and to £6 14s 4d per capita in 1908. *The Economist* regards the increase of £1 7s 6d per capita as the reply of Great Britain to Mr. Chamberlain's alarmist statement that British in-

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If you desire bonds of the great cities or of towns, counties, school districts of lesser importance, we have some thirty issues from which to select. If you prefer the utmost earning capacity commensurate with abundant security, we can offer you a few issues, purchased after the most searching investigation, netting from 5% to 6%. In this class we recommend:

Long Bell Lumber Company, 6% (Sinking Fund) Bonds
San Benito, (Texas) 6% Gold Bonds
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Rogers, (Arkansas) 6% (Sewer) Bonds
Jefferson County (Arkansas) 6% (Levee) Bonds
Kossuth County (Iowa), 6% (Drain) Bonds

Our reputation of twenty years without a single loss is back of every bond we sell.

We want your inquiry whether for a small bond or many thousands. The fullest information, circulars, etc., furnished on application.

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Bonds offer to the individual investor and to the business firm or corporation wishing to invest its surplus, a very wide range of choice in RATE OF INCOME combined with

Absolute Safety of Principal
Ready Conversion Into Cash
Reasonable Chance for Profit

We own and offer for sale a line of bonds —netting 4 to 5¾%—suited to the needs of all classes of investors, and we will be glad to place at your service our excellent facilities to supply sound investments.

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dustry was "going." Altho Germany and America in recent years have made rapid progress, those countries, the leading competitors of Great Britain, "are still far behind." The next table presented relates to internal and external transportation, that is, the business of railroads and ships, and is as follows:

	1885-9	1890-4	1895-9	1900-4	1905-8
RAILWAYS.					
Miles open	19,567	20,429	21,449	22,231	23,056
Passengers carried (millions)	735	862	1,042	1,179	1,244
Goods conveyed...(*mil. tons*)	272	308	371	434	489
SHIPPING.	Thous. Tons.	Thous. Tons.	Thous. Tons.	Thous. Tons.	Thous. Tons.
Tonnage entered and cleared at ports	66,539	76,027	88,989	101,384	124,387
Tonnage on register	7,470	8,527	9,026	2,958	11,232
Tonnage built and added to register	415	599	562	678	679
Tonnage sold to foreigners	108	141	318	249	256

The above figures are accepted by *The Economist* with a good deal of satisfaction, since they show for home, as distinguished from foreign transportation, an expansion "very nearly as large as the returns of shipping." Next is given a statement as to the consumption of commodities per capita:

	1885-9	1890-4	1895-9	1900-4	1905-8
Raw cotton ....lbs.	39.6	41.7	42.0	38.2	42.6
Wool .. "	10.7	11.8	12.4	10.7	11.1
Coal ....tons	3.61	3.69	3.85	3.95	4.00
Pig iron .. "	.18	.17	.19	.19	.19
Wheat .... lbs.	356	367	358	358	361

Here is found evidence that the consumption of the four leading industrial materials used in Great Britain "has at least kept pace with the increasing population," while in two cases it has "grown even more rapidly." The figures are the more remarkable because of the recent discovery and development of vast resources of iron and coal in Germany and the United States, in spite of which Great Britain "has maintained the position she acquired when "she monopolized the world's iron and coal trades."

The Economist regards none of the figures presented in the Blue Book as so striking as those which give "direct evidence of the internal wealth of the country." These "show enormous expansion in business and in the growth of net income," as follows:

	1885-9	1890-4	1895-9	1900-4	1905-8
Number of companies carrying on business in the U.K.	10,456	16,057	23,523	33,534	42,256
	Mill. £	Mill. £	Mill. £	Mill. £	Mill. £
Do paid-up capital	580	941	1,278	1,781	2,048
Clearings of London clearing bankers	6,410	6,789	7,981	9,847	12,462
Income-tax assessments	642	707	770	914	974

Coming to the final test of social well-being, which is the question of the distribution of the nation's income and the use to which it is put, *The Economist* presents statistics of wages, employment, and health. These are derived from a Blue Book dealing with public health and social conditions, as follows:

	1885-9	1890-4	1895-9	1900-4	1905-8
Wages in leading industries (including agriculture)	94.7	90.8	92.2	98.6	100
Employment(based on trade-union unemployed returns)	99.1	100.1	102.0	101.3	100
Retail prices in London	....	....	90.6	97.0	100

The inference of *The Economist* from

A Good New Year's Investment

WITH the opening of the New Year, you usually consider most carefully how to invest your surplus money. It is hard to find a small investment that will pay a good rate of interest and yet is absolutely safe. Our mortgage certificates based on selected first mortgages on New York City real estate solve this problem for you. The interest is 4½% and the certificates are in amounts of $200, $500, $1,000 and $5,000.

The $200 certificates will be sold if desired on the installment plan at $10 per month.

These certificates have all the advantages of the guaranteed mortgages. The payment of the principal and interest is guaranteed absolutely by the Bond and Mortgage Guarantee Company with its Capital and Surplus of $7,500,000. We stake our own reputation on the satisfactory character of these mortgage certificates. Our capital and surplus amount to $14,000,000.

These certificates do not pay six per cent. Bonds that do are not first mortgage bonds, but represent money borrowed for speculation in real estate and risked on the speculation. They should not be called bonds at all.

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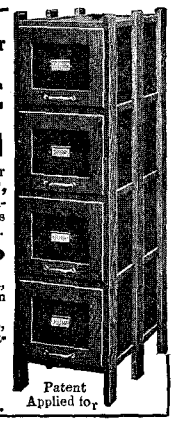

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these figures is that there has been "a continuous and satisfactory increase in wages" and that the proportion of men in employment is as great as it was in the first two quintennials. It is not so good, however, as it was from 1895 to 1904. It remains to be added that retail prices meanwhile have shown "a steady advance, due to the same causes which have influenced wholesale prices." Such a rise is "a frequent if not invariable condition of expanding trade, increasing profits, and raising wages, but it inevitably means, like a rise in rents, a set-off against the very improvement from which it results."

THE TELEGRAPH SERVICE

Early in the present month, the passing of control of the Western Union Telegraph Company from the Gould to the telephone interests was completed by changes in the board of directors. It remains now to be seen whether in future this union of interests between two great public-service corporations will redound to the public interest, as has been suggested that it will. Various statements have been made on the subject. The general tenor of them has been based on an assumption that no one has yet fully realized what economies will be possible under the new working arrangements. A banker, who was prominent in the negotiations, has said that, instead of raising rates in telegraph messages, the merger will result in much better service at a cost per message relatively smaller. Heretofore the suburban service of the Western Union has not been profitable, because of the heavy expense involved in delivering messages. This item of loss can now be eliminated by means of deliveries over the telephone. It is believed that with the plans fully completed the Western Union will be able to handle a larger volume of profitable business without any appreciable increase in the cost of maintenance.

A singular fact, in connection with these statements, is that the price of Western Union stock, instead of advancing on their completion, actually declined, so that it now remains about where it has been for some months, except that an advance of a few points occurred on rumors that the dividend might be increased. The January dividend remains, however, at the old figure—three-fourths of one per cent. The explanation for the failure of the stock to rise, given in Wall Street, is that the good news was accompanied by a plentiful supply of stock for sale without a corresponding demand. Offers to sell, however, were not many Conditions had merely failed to stimulate enough fresh buying to take care of the stock offered. Outsiders, unfamiliar with these conditions, probably thought Western Union should have advanced tremendously on the news.

THE PRODUCTION OF GOLD

The world's output of gold for the year now closing has been estimated by a writer in the monthly circular of the National City Bank of New York at not less than $450,000,000. The total for last year was $434,000,000. The writer believes that, if the present rate of increase continues three years longer, the total in 1912 will exceed $500,000,000. He goes further in saying there is every reason to expect that

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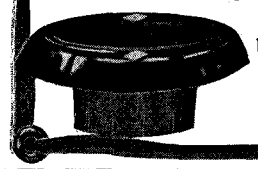

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this increase will continue "for several years to come." The mines of the Rand, for example, are estimated to contain sufficient quantities of gold to keep up their large contribution for "at least a quarter of a century." There is no indication of any decline in South African fields, where the conditions at present indicate increases rather than the contrary. South African mines are not subject to heat conditions which in many other mines impose a limit as to the depth at which they can be successfully worked. Physical conditions with them are such as to admit of successful operations to great depths, thus prolonging the period of their productivity. The writer adds that, taking the world as a whole, "the outlook for a large and continuous production of gold is exceedingly favorable."

He presents some startling statistics as to gold production since the discovery of America. From 1492 until 1880 (a few years less than four centuries), the world's production is estimated to have been $6,905,033,000. From 1881 to 1908, a period of twenty-seven years, the production is estimated at almost as large a sum, namely, $6,020,925,000. The writer adds that popular impressions as to the uses to which gold is put are in error. The greater part of it is not used in coinage,—only about forty-five per cent. The remainder is employed in the arts and in hoarding. The demand is constantly growing, so that the principal countries of Europe "have adopted measures to conserve as well as increase their holdings."

Refined Football.

[College football needs reforming. I hope to see it next season a more gentlemanly game.—Western Professor.]

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My elbow caught you on the nose."
"Don't mention it, I beg of you;
I hope I have not mashed your toes."

"Dear me! I must apologize,
Pray, let me help you to your feet."
"I thank you, sir. Let me commend
Your tackling: 'twas extremely neat."

"I've bruised your jaw—believe me, sir,
I do regret such sad mischance."
"A trifle—prithee, take my arm;
I'll lead you to the ambulance."

"Your ear, I think, sir—I am grieved;
I have been rather rough, I fear."
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When Yale and Harvard meet next year?

—*Boston Transcript.*

The Heft of Theft.—"Your methods," said the indignant official, "were simply highway robbery."

"Again you wrong me," answered the sugar importer. "They were low-weigh robbery."—*Ohio State Journal.*

The Settlement.—SUITOR—"What will your father settle on the man who marries you?"

THE GIRL—"All the rest of the family, I suppose."—*St. Louis Times.*

Preposterous.—CLANCY—"Oi'm after a ticket ter Chicago."

TICKET AGENT—"Do you want an excursion ticket? One that will take you there and back?"

CLANCY—"Phat's the sinse of me payin' ter go there an' back whin Oi'm here alriddy?"—*Hotel Register.*

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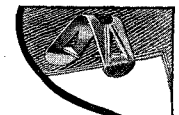

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